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Dowagiac Daily News

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Bring on the fair

County Fair returns to Cassopolis Sunday

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — The Cass County Fairgrounds is buzzing with life once again.

Residents from across the county are hard at work preparing for the annual Cass County Fair taking place from Sunday, July 27 to Saturday, Aug. 2.

The fair will host many 4-H club competitions, a carnival and grandstand entertainment. Festivities kick off at 5 p.m. Sunday, July 27 with the opening ceremonies and parade at the fair grandstands.

General gate admission is $9 for adults daily, $3 for children 6 to 12 and free for children under the age of six. Grandstand events are $5 if bought before July 27 and $10 after.

Throughout the fair, there will be a number of days during which certain individuals can enter for free or a reduced price.

Fair schedule

Exhibits and concessions open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, July 27 – Free gate admission

•7 a.m. Livestock may enter the fairgrounds

•12 p.m. Entry of Open Class Floriculture & Horticulture (EC)

See FAIR, Page A8

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Cassopolis community mourns 15-year-old killed in crash

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASSOPOLIS — The Cassopolis community is mourning the life of Kollin Grover, a 15-year-old Cassopolis Ross Beatty student who was killed in a crash Friday, July 18.

Grover was riding his dirt bike down Mullen Road in Cassopolis when he was struck by a truck traveling east on Hospital Street. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Cassopolis Public Schools released the following statement on Facebook regarding Grover's passing:

We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our incoming 10th grader, Kollin Grover. Kollin was very involved in school activities including football, wrestling and golf. He was a great friend and he will be deeply missed. Our thoughts, prayers and support go out to Kollin's family and friends.

Jeremiah Lee, Grover's football coach at Cassopolis, was devastated when he learned of Grover's passing.

"He was a great kid. The kind of kid every coach wants," he said. "He worked hard, showed up every day and got after it. That's all you can ask for as a coach."

Lee went on to say the team will be dedicating the upcoming season to Grover.

"It truly is more than a game," he said. "I coach to build bonds with these kids. It makes you slow down and realize that we can win games but at the same time the relationships are important to these kids. We have to lock in and work hard. We want to dedicate the season to him and get after it."

Lee said he is not surprised by the outpouring of support from the Cassopolis community.

"Cass is a small village, we always show up for our own," he said. "If you're from here or any part of here, we give love. No one is left behind in a village like this. We show up for each other and we're going to build and grow together. Please keep the community, [Grover's] teammates and staff in our prayers as we navigate through this tragedy."

Grover's sister, Kayla, created a change.org campaign petitioning the village to install a four-way stop at the Mullen-Hospital intersection to prevent future accidents from occurring.

"Since the road is only currently a two-way stop, people often speed down Hospital Street," Kayla wrote. "I have been told of several accidents that have occurred at this intersection due to the lack of visibility because of the crest of the hill being too high. Because of the amount of hardship for my family and others I am petitioning to put in lighted stop signs to prevent this from happening to anyone else."

PITMASTERS BRING THE HEAT AT ANNUAL DOWAGIAC BBQ COMPETITION

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Pitmasters from across the country descended on downtown Dowagiac Saturday to compete for top honors in its third annual Dowagiac BBQ Competition.

When the smoke cleared, BBQ Mike took home Grand Champion honors after earning second and third places in both the chicken and rib categories. Smokey GQ earned Reserve Grand Champion with first and fifth place finishes in chicken and ribs respectively, including a perfect score on chicken and special recognition from the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Smokey Js placed first in the ribs category.

The contest took place Saturday in the Slope's parking lot. While shopping local vendors and storefronts, guests were able to both see and smell the contestants in action. The event was sanctioned by the KCBS – the largest competitive barbecue organization in the world. The event brought pitmasters, judges and enthusiasts from all over the country to downtown Dowagiac.

The competition was fierce, with KCBS-certified BBQ judges judging the meats based on KCBS standards.

"Our third-annual backyard BBQ competition, sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society and judged professionally, had remarkable results," said BBQ Competition Chair Cathy McBride. "This is the first time that we've had competitors score over the 350-point mark, which is a big deal

See BBQ, Page A8

COURTESY OF DOWAGIAC CHAMBER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
BBQ: BBQ Competition Chair Cathy McBride poses with Grand Champion BBQ Mike.

Bridge improvement projects completed

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The City of Dowagiac announced this week that all five bridges that are part of the Summer 2025 Bridge Improvement Program — S. Front, Cass, Henry, Riverside, and Lowe — have fully reopened to traffic.

The construction work was preventative maintenance, with all of the work requiring closures beig completed on or ahead of schedule. Some items like pavement markings are still underway, but will not require further closures.

The BIP is largely funded by a State of Michigan Bridge Funding Grant for the 2025 season that the City identified, applied for, and won in 2022, which means local tax money can be used for other important projects.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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OBITUARIES

William Otte
Victor Hector Vasquez
William Christian Mansfield
Joan Marie Zehner
Harry Seifriet Jr.
Rose Marie Kilgore
Larry Luman Granger
Opal Fay Hatcher
Valerie Hundt
Kollin Joe Grover
Jacqueline Sobieralski
Elaine E. Metzger
Joyce Bailey
A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Do something nice for someone today.
Small acts of kindness spread like wildfire."

A2

Hometown Hero B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

I am so sick of Democrats complaining about the border, the wall and immigration. Finally someone is doing something about the immigration disaster that no Presid~~ent has taken ser~~iously. You can't come into this country illegally and let everyone else pay for your services.

Trump threatens to put restrictions on the Washington Commanders if they don't change their name back to the Redskins. Hmmm, sounds like an epic lawsuit. It's not his place to negotiate a stadium deal anyway!

Love him, hate him, Stephen Colbert being cancelled can only be a product of rightwing negotiations with CBS. He has the top rated late night talk show and no business walks away from that.

People like to complain about change. I'm glad we finally have an administration looking out for the workers of America. It's about time.

At least 85 Palastinians were killed while trying to get food at aid stations. Human beings are starving. Calling all Palastinians Hamas supporters is like calling all Americans Trump supporters. Bad people grow in power and do bad things and the meek get caught in the middle. This isn't a new thing.

Do something nice for someone today. Small acts of kindness spread like wildfire.

Politicians usually don't do the right thing until their lives are adversely affected. It's disappointing how that works.

Goodbye Medicaid! For those of you who support this President and are on Medicaid, good luck with your healthcare. He promised "no cuts" to Medicaid or Medicare. Apparently you are not being cut, just being blacklisted due to your fraudulent behavior while receiving these benefits.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
70% Chance of Storms	Partly Cloudy	30% Chance of Rain	30% Chance of Rain	Mostly Sunny	30% Chance of Rain
82° 70°	85° 70°	91° 71°	89° 64°	79° 58°	75° 58°

'GOOD TROUBLE' RALLY HELD AT CASSOPOLIS COURTHOUSE

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASSOPOLIS — Approximately 100 people gathered with protest signs, American flags, and songs in front of the Cass County Courthouse Thursday to join in a national day of action organized by the group "Good Trouble Lives On."

Across the country, people rallied to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the death of civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis, the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six civil rights activists, a group led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Lewis led approximately 600 protesters in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965. During the march, Lewis was beaten by police and suffered a skull fracture.

Cassopolis resident Carolyn Kelly said she helped to organize the rally because

See RALLY, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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United Way of Southwest Michigan's Rock The Boat raises $45,000+

COMMUNITY REPORT

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Honor Credit Union's "Going Bananas" team races through the water in their heat at the annual ROCK THE BOAT event presented by Honor Credit Union this past Thursday, July 17th.

ST. JOSEPH — United Way of Southwest Michigan's ROCK THE BOAT Cardboard Boat Races, Presented by Honor Credit Union, returned to the Inn at Harbor Shores for another great year of racing for a great cause Thursday, July 17, 2025.

Nineteen boats from various area organizations and businesses helped bolster a fundraising total of over $45,500, including sponsorships & crowd-funded donations from participants and spectators, resulting in a 46 percent increase over last year's event.

The event featured life-size boats made entirely of cardboard racing in 7 heats in the river channel. Spectators lined the Inn at Harbor Shores' channel shoreline to enjoy the event, and hundreds enjoyed the livestream on the United Way of Southwest Michigan YouTube & Facebook channels.

The fastest boat winner went to Whirlpool Corporation's "Knead for Speed," with the most Creative trophy awarded to Gast Manufacturing's "Tipsy," which did, in fact, topple over in the water before even making it to the starting line. The Captain's Bounty award for the most dollars raised went to Curi RMB Capital St. Joseph with $2,383 raised, while team "Dewey, Sinkem, and Howe" with their boat "Miss Creant" walked away with the trophy for People's Choice, collecting 43 donors that contributed to their team fundraising campaign total of $1,671.

Anna Murphy, President & CEO of United Way of Southwest Michigan, helped hand out the awards to the participants at the end of the event and said there were smiling faces all around, even if teams didn't make it past the finish (or the starting) line. "It's clear the community is absolutely in love with this event. We consider it one of the few ways we can connect with our community members, donors, sponsors, and impact partners all in one place. Getting these groups together to have some fun on the water and laugh is just priceless."

All dollars raised by boat registrations, sponsors, and people's choice votes will stay here in the community to benefit programs and impact partners of United Way of Southwest Michigan, which serves Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. This was also the biggest year of sponsorship for Rock the Boat, thanks to gifts from organizations like Honor Credit Union.

Honor's CEO, Scott McFarland, said, "It was incredible to see Rock the Boat raise even more funds this year, knowing that impact will make a real difference for families and individuals across Southwest Michigan. We're proud to support an event that brings people together and leaves a lasting impact well beyond race day. Giving back to our local communities has always been part of who we are at Honor, and our partnership with United Way of Southwest Michigan is a perfect example of that in action."

Teams participating this year included Ausra Kabota, Holtec Palisades, Honor Credit Union, The Herald-Palladium, four teams from Whirlpool Corporation, Lake Michigan College, Logan Autism Center, Team Dewey, Sinkum & Howe, two teams from Gast Manufacturing, Insurance Management Service, Region IV Area Agency On Aging, Kinexus Group, Curi RMB Capital, Walsworth, and Cook Nuclear Plant.

Rock the Boat was produced by the United Way of Southwest Michigan staff, with planning and execution assistance from Gravity Productions, JV Studios, and Mid-West Family Marketing & Media's "99.9 Y Country." The event was emceed by Our Lady of the Lake Athletic Director & WSJM Sports' Phil McDonald.

The event began as a United Way of Southwest Michigan campaign fundraiser by the Whirlpool Corporation in 2016, with United Way taking over the event in 2024 based on the very successful template of the past by Whirlpool's employee teams.

The event was patrolled on land and in the water by members of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department, with assistance from the US Coast Guard St. Joseph Station and St. Joseph Department of Public Safety. The Inn at Harbor Shores donates space for the event to take place, and Brian's Marina loans safety and boating equipment for the race. Whirlpool's Advanced Development & Innovation Team provided a new addition to the safety process this year by building a boat return ramp utilizing donated parts and supplies courtesy of Big C Lumber and Godfrey Pontoon Boats. In-kind donations were also given from The Herald-Palladium, Lakeshore Public Schools, and MailMax.

Food trucks participating at the event included Benton Harbor's "The Brick House" and "Ben's Pretzels," as well as Lost Coast Shave Ice, and KT's Rasoi. The Inn at Harbor Shores also served drinks for the event. All food vendors committed to donate a portion of their sales to United Way of Southwest Michigan.

The event is Presented by Honor Credit Union, with major support from Silver Beach Pizza, Gast Manufacturing, Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, Whirlpool Corporation, BluCat Consulting, 99.9 Y Country, and JV Studios. Supporting sponsors include the Inn at Harbor Shores, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Lake Michigan College, and Curi RMB Capital, with additional thanks to United Container Company, Competitive Edge, Brian's Marina, Pepsi, Gravity Productions, Feeding America West Michigan, Big C Lumber, and Godfrey Pontoon Boats.

2026 event registration will open in early Spring for boaters to begin planning their craft designs. Watch RockTheBoatForUnitedWay.com and sign up for alerts.

PET OF THE WEEK

Bingo is an eight-month-old tabby with Save A Stray. Volunteers said she is super snuggly and seems to get along with other friendly cats and cat-friendly dogs. Bingo is spayed and current on shots. Contact Save A Stray at (269) 921-0145.

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Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SMC should expand presidential search committee

Southwestern Michigan College has rejected the Social Justice Alliance of Cass County's (SJACC) request to expand its Presidential Search Committee, which do not reflect the broad demographics of the community that funds, attends and operates the college. Students and employees are omitted. Tax paying stakeholders (not on the committee) are absent.

Given the opportunity to broaden the demographics of the committee with other Board of Trustees, faculty, or foundation members from which the members were selected, Chair Thomas Jerdon failed to do so. When that gap was pointed out, SMC's response was that the committee was adequately representative, and no other members could or would be added.

Apprehension about the sluggish and closed process also persists. A website posting from July 2nd listed an applicant closing date of August 17th, indicating an application window of almost six weeks, which conflicts with Chair Jerdon's statement specifying that applications would be accepted over a three-week period. To date, only one closed session committee meeting has been held.

We now publicly appeal to SMC's Board of Trustees to reconsider, and to expand the Presidential Search Committee toward representing the unrepresented with a sense of resolve over resistance.

SJACC Board

NEWS

Two area residents were sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Niles man gets probation for assault with dangerous weapon

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two area residents were sentenced Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Lorne C. Mitchell, Jr., 24, of Niles, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for 46 days served, 250 hours of community service and $678 in fines and costs. The guns involved in the incident were forfeited.

Mitchell

The incident occurred May 26 in Niles. A co-defendant, Navonea Maurese-Shemar White, was given a similar sentence last week.

Defense attorney Stephanie Teeple said that Mitchell has a stable home and job waiting for him when he gets out of jail and he just wants to get back to his family. Mitchell said he took full responsibility for his actions and apologized.

"You recognize that you are not where you want to be in your life," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said. "It's time you grew up, be better and be done with this."

Timothy Gary Howard, 36, of Mishawaka, pleaded guilty to attempted resisting and obstructing police and use of methamphetamine and was sentenced to credit for 64 days served and $308 in fines and costs.

Howard

The incident occurred May 17 in Niles Township. He has pending charges in Indiana and was previously sentenced to prison in Indiana for an assault incident.

Defense attorney Amy McDowell said that Howard's criminal record goes back primarily to his meth addiction. She added that he also hasn't resolved the trauma of having his daughter murdered while he was in prison. She said that while he has skills, he needs resources and counseling to find a reason for living.

Judge Hosbein agreed with the sentencing recommendation. "Obviously breaking the law has consequences but you are under supervision in Indiana," he said. "Let this be a good start for the rest of your future."

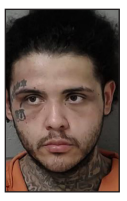
Niles men sentenced to prison on multiple charges

Two Niles men were sentenced to prison Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Two Niles men were sentenced to prison Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Michael Lorimer Starrett, 28, of Sycamore Street in Niles, pleaded guilty to third offense domestic violence and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and was sentenced to two concurrent prison terms.


Starett

He was sentenced to three to five years in prison on the domestic violence charge and has credit for 110 days served. He must pay $698 in fines and costs. On the assault charge, he was given a prison term of six years four months to 10 years. He has credit for 71 days served and must pay $2,048 in fines and costs.

The domestic violence incident occurred Dec. 24, 2024 at a location in Howard Township. The victim in that case was found with a cut on her forehead and a swollen face and was taken to the hospital.

The assault with intent to do great bodily harm incident occurred May 9 at a location in Milton Township. The victim in that case was found beaten and bloodied with a chunk of hair missing. She was also transported to the hospital. Police had been to the house twice that day with Starrett forcing her to keep quiet the first time they came.

Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz called Starrett's behavior egregious with his attacks on the two women. "There are some in society that people absolutely need to be protected from," he said. "He needs to be sent to prison at the top of the guidelines."

Fitz said Starrett has a record of 20 convictions including eight felonies before these two incidents. "He's a person who cannot obey the rules of society," he said. "He's a man who really knows how to say he's sorry but he cannot conform his actions to society. He has tried to manipulate the system with his false tears."

Defense attorney Greg Feldman said that Starrett has accepted responsibility for his actions. "He told the presentence investigation writer that the women in these cases didn't deserve what he did to them," Feldman said. "He didn't try to sugarcoat what happened. He also said his drug use has taken over his life and contributed to his actions."

"Words cannot begin to explain my apologies to the individuals," Starrett said. "I'm ashamed, I take full accountability for my actions. I deserve whatever punishment the court imposes."

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman described what happened in both incidents. He noted that the first victim said she was afraid to tell the truth about what happened after Starrett separated her from her family and threatened to kill her.

"These are your ninth and 10th felony convictions," Judge Herman said. "You were sent to prison in 2015 and 2018 on weapon charged including underlying domestic violence charges. You have violated your parole five times. You were again sentenced to prison in 2022 for another two years."

Ward

"You have spent seven years of your adult life behind bars and shown you have no intention of changing your behavior," he added. "You have to decide whether you want this to be your life ... No woman deserves what you did."

Terrel Kenneth Ward, 37, of Lake Street in Niles, pleaded guilty to resisting police was sentenced to 16 months to two years in prison with credit for 173 days served and $698 in fines and costs.

He also pleaded guilty to receiving, concealing and possession of a stolen motor vehicle and assault with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to a concurrent 29 months to five years in prison for the stolen vehicle charge and two to four years in prison for the assault charge. He has credit for 164 days served and must pay $2,116 with restitution to be determined.

The first incident occurred May 5, 2024 in Wayne Township outside of Dowagiac. Police responded to a stolen property complaint and Ward ran from police.

The second incident occurred Oct. 4, 2024 also in Wayne Township. A "be on the lookout" call had been put out by police for a truck stolen in Benton Harbor. A motorist recognized the truck in Wayne Township and called police. He fled from police at speeds of over 110 miles per hour and was eventually stopped in Van Buren County.

Ward is currently serving a prison sentence from a Berrien County conviction for stealing the truck and faces sentencing in Van Buren County for fleeing police.

"I don't think you are an evil person, but you have an addictive personality," Judge Herman told Ward. "One of your addictions is motor vehicles. I don't know why you can't keep your hands off other people's vehicles. You have criminal addictive thinking, it's not just drugs."

"You're digging yourself quite a hole," the judge added. "You have total reckless disregard for the safety of others. It was sheer dumb luck that no one was hurt."

Man arrested after woman's body found in home

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — The South Bend man accused in the murder of Courtney Hershberger was arraigned Wednesday in Berrien County Court.

Rene Lopez Alvarado, of South Bend, was arraigned on charges of Homicide-Open Murder and Felony Firearms with a bond set at $2 Million with a GPS Tether condition.

Hershberger

Hershberger, 29, was found dead Monday afternoon inside of her home in Franklin Woods Mobile Home Park, 1950 S. 13th St. Preliminary results of an autopsy performed on Hershberger at WMED in Kalamazoo show that she died of a gunshot wound.

It was revealed that Hershberger and Alvarado were involved in a relationship.

Leader Publications will be updated as more information becomes available.

Dowagiac Daily News

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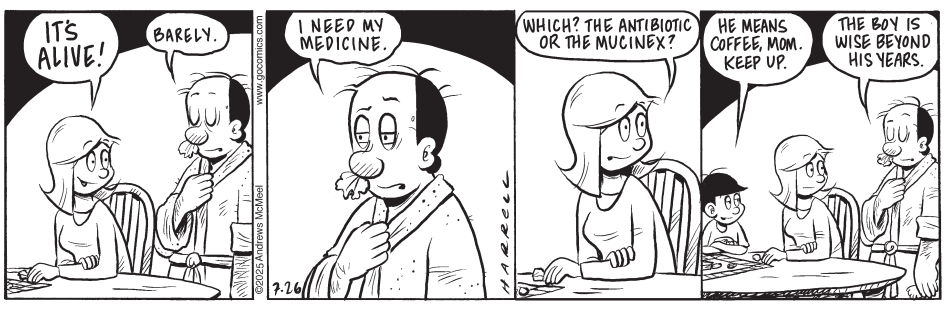
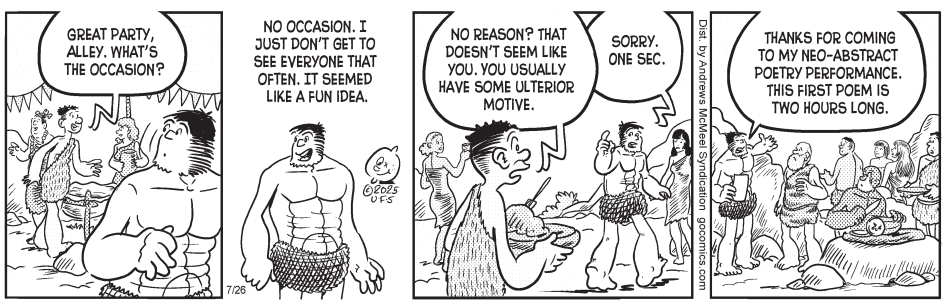
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM



ALLEY OOP


GREAT PARTY, ALLEY. WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
NO OCCASION. I JUST DON'T GET TO SEE EVERYONE THAT OFTEN. IT SEEMED LIKE A FUN IDEA.
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NO REASON? THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU. YOU USUALLY HAVE SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
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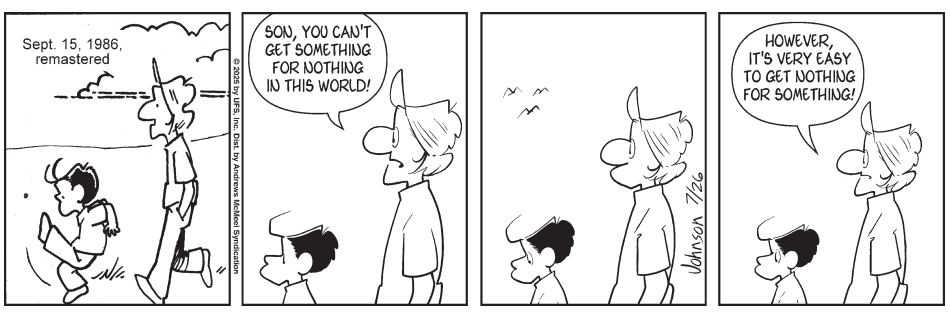
THANKS FOR COMING TO MY NEO-ABSTRACT POETRY PERFORMANCE. THIS FIRST POEM IS TWO HOURS LONG.

ARLO & JANIS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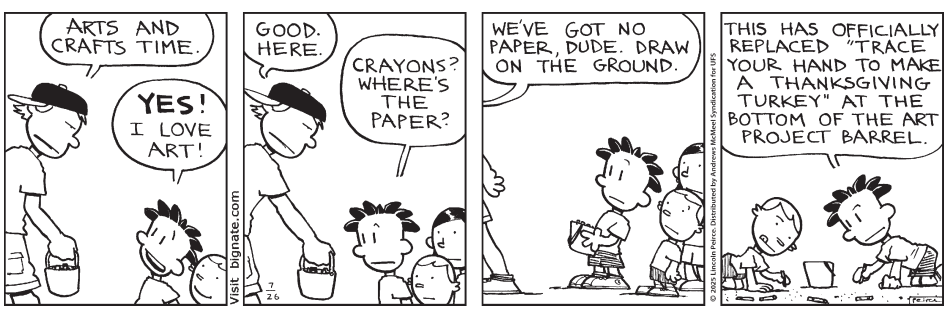
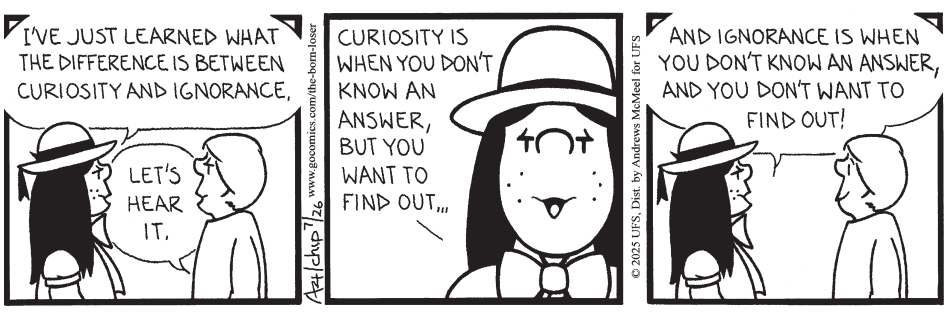
SON, YOU CAN'T GET SOMETHING FOR NOTHING IN THIS WORLD!
HOWEVER, IT'S VERY EASY TO GET NOTHING FOR SOMETHING!
Johnson 7/26

BIG NATE


ARTS AND CRAFTS TIME.
YES! I LOVE ART!
visit bignate.com
GOOD. HERE.
CRAYONS? WHERE'S THE PAPER?
7/26
WE'VE GOT NO PAPER, DUDE. DRAW ON THE GROUND.
THIS HAS OFFICIALLY REPLACED "TRACE YOUR HAND TO MAKE A THANKSGIVING TURKEY" AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ART PROJECT BARREL.

BORN LOSER


I'VE JUST LEARNED WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN CURIOSITY AND IGNORANCE,
LET'S HEAR IT.
CURIOSITY IS WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW AN ANSWER, BUT YOU WANT TO FIND OUT...
AND IGNORANCE IS WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW AN ANSWER, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT!
Hatchup 7/26
www.gocomics.com/the-born-loser
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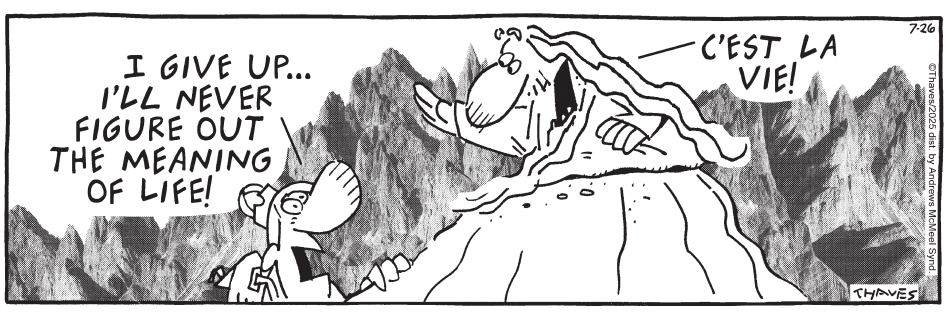
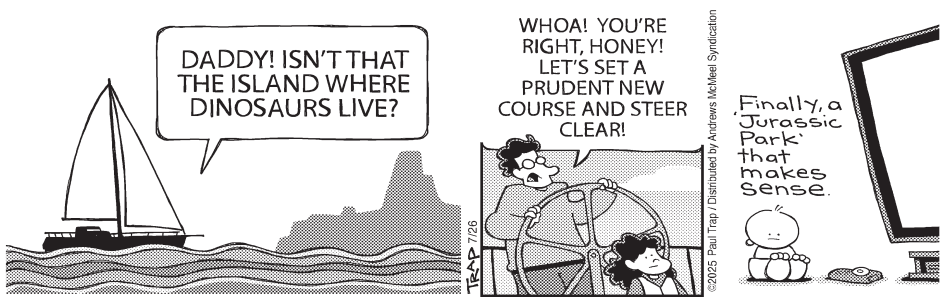
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

FACE IT, PIERPOINT... JASMINE IS SELF-CENTERED, SHALLOW AND TREATS YOU LIKE YOU DON'T EXIST
I KNOW, BUT I'M CRAZY ABOUT HER
SIGH!... THEY SAY 'LOVE IS BLIND'
TRUE...
AND SOMETIMES COMATOSE
YEAH... THAT TOO
©2025 UFS/Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS
7/26

THATABABY


DADDY! ISN'T THAT THE ISLAND WHERE DINOSAURS LIVE?
WHOA! YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! LET'S SET A PRUDENT NEW COURSE AND STEER CLEAR!
TRAP 7/26
©2025 Paul Trap / Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
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SODOKU PUZZLE

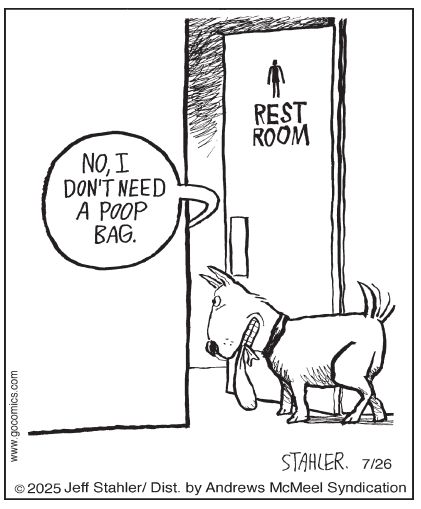
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

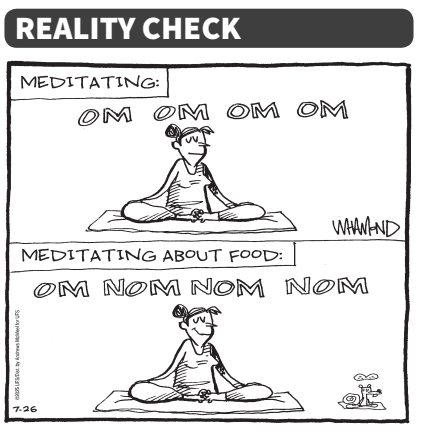
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

					2		3	
			3	5		8		9
6				1			2	
				7		4	5	2
				9				
3	6	7		2				
	2			3				7
9		5		4	1			
	8		5					

MODERATELY CONFUSED



REALITY CHECK



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

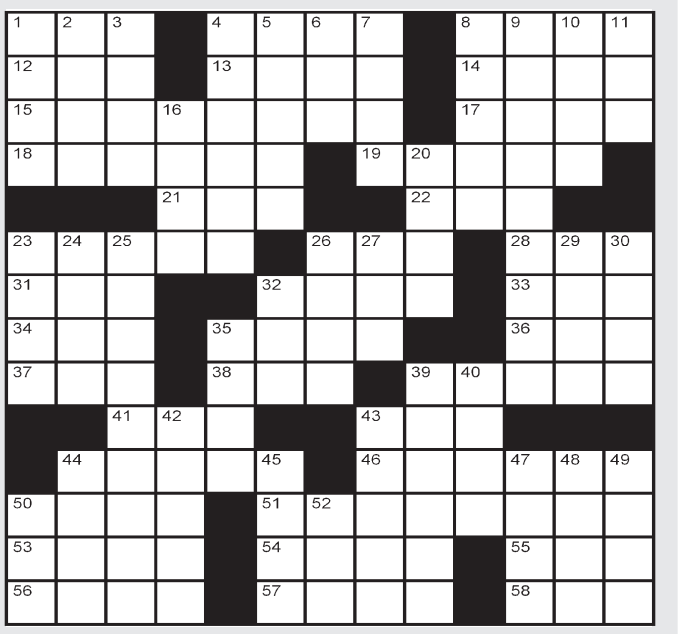
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

ACROSS

1 Fond du —, Wisconsin
4 Did in
8 Meat in a can
12 Org. for lawyers
13 — de foie gras
14 "— la Douce"
15 Upright
17 Marsh bird
18 Apparel
19 Fad
21 Fleur-de- —
22 Squid's output
23 San Andreas —
26 Actor — Carney
28 Like a wallflower
31 Annex
32 Egyptian canal
33 To boot
34 Body art, for short
35 After-dinner candy
36 Wapiti
37 Singer — DiFranco
38 Likely
39 Little pigs number
41 Impair
43 So-so grade
44 Wise men
46 Deft
50 Part of NB
51 Fence for defense
53 — de grace
54 Rights org.
55 Brewed beverage
56 "My treat!" (2 wds.)
57 Quantity of paper
58 Utterance of hesitation

DOWN

1 Volcanic flow
2 Aid and —
3 Haul
4 Team morale
5 Spikes
6 Between zeta and theta
7 Wheal
8 Warning signal
9 Practical joker
10 Among
11 — de mer
16 Money drawer
20 "Puttin' On the —"
23 Greek cheese
24 Chester — Arthur
25 Final demand
26 Mom's sister
27 Soak flax
29 Perforation
30 Oxen's harness
32 Drink
35 Female animal
39 Boredom
40 Word on a towel
42 Wide open
43 — lily
44 Before long
45 Pole on a ship
47 Swearword
48 — fixe
49 Group of players
50 Mil. rank
52 "— Ventura: Pet Detective"



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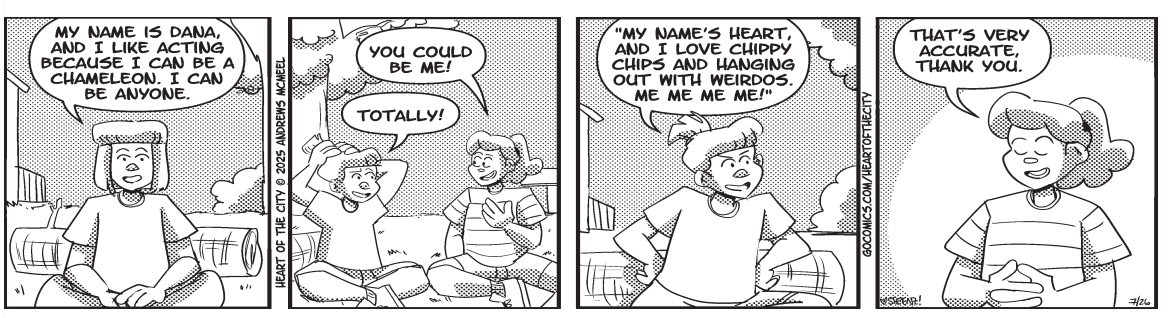
BREVITY

SO YOU'RE DATING STEVE THE NICU NURSE?
YES, YOU'LL LOVE HIM. HE'S SO DOWN TO BIRTH.
GOCOMICS.COM/BREVITY 7/26
©2020 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION BREVITYCOMIC@GMAIL.COM DAN

HEART OF THE CITY


MY NAME IS DANA, AND I LIKE ACTING BECAUSE I CAN BE A CHAMELEON. I CAN BE ANYONE.
YOU COULD BE ME!
TOTALLY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
"MY NAME'S HEART, AND I LOVE CHIPPY CHIPS AND HANGING OUT WITH WEIRDOS. ME ME ME ME!"
THAT'S VERY ACCURATE, THANK YOU.
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

DEATH NOTICES

William Otte, 84, of Eau Claire, passed away on Tuesday, June 03, 2025. Services at Chapel Hill Methodist Church on July 26 at 1:00 PM. Burial to Follow Service. www.BowermanFuneral.com

Victor Hector Vasquez, 57, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, July 17, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

William Christian Mansfield, 77, passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in Mishawaka, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Joan Marie Zehner, 82, of Edwardsburg, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Harry Seifriet Jr., 84 of Niles passed away on July 21, 2025 at Hanson Hospice in Stevensville. Arrangements are pending and entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles.

Rose Marie Kilgore, 80, of Niles, passed away Sunday, July 20, 2025 at Brentwood Living Facility in Niles. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Larry Luman Granger, 67, passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2025 in St. Joseph, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Opal Fay Hatcher, 78, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, July 13, 2025. Services will be held at 12:00pm on Friday, July 25, at Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

Valerie Hundt, 72,of Elkhart, passed away Tuesday, July 22, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

Kollin Joe Grover

March 25, 2010 - July 18, 2025

Kollin Joe Grover, 15, of Cassopolis, died Friday, July 18, 2025.

His life began March 25, 2010 in Goshen, Indiana born to Bradley Grover and Rachell Grover.

Kollin cherished his family. He loved anything that had to do with the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, football, golf, wrestling, track, and dirt biking. He had a passion for International Harvesters and working on tractors. He had aspirations of becoming a diesel mechanic. He was a gamer and enjoyed playing with his friends. He made the most of time spent with his friends and girlfriend.

Kollin will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his mother,

Rachell (Chris Williamson) Grover of Cassopolis; his father, Bradley (Tabatha Moses) Grover of Cassopolis; sisters, Kayla Grover of Cassopolis, Brittney Gerger of Goshen, Indiana, Tabitha Williamson of Cassopolis; brother, Trevor Williamson of Cassopolis; grandparents, Bob and Barb Grover of Sparta, Wisconsin, George (Peggy) Etheridge of Cadiz, Kentucky; uncle, Ken (Beatrice) Grover of Summerville, South Carolina, Dutch (Jodey) Etheridge of South Carolina; aunt, Crystal (Carl) Forbes Traverse City; stepsister, Cynthia Price of Goshen, Indiana; stepbrother, Joshua Price of Goshen, Indiana; great aunts and uncles; and a host of cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Irene Grover and Patricia Etheridge.

Family and friends will gather from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 24, 2025 in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 25, 2025 in the funeral home.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, July 25, 2025 where Kollin will be laid to rest with his grandmother, Irene Grover, in Bremen Cemetery, 100 East 2nd Street, Bremen, Indiana 46506.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Kollin be made to a football, golf, or wrestling organization of donor's choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

Jacqueline Sobieralski

November 12, 1936 - July 17, 2025

Jacqueline "Jill" D. (DeWitt) Sobieralski, a wife, mother and grandmother full of love and kindness, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2025, at Brentwood Memory Care in Niles, Michigan, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born on November 12, 1936 in Benton Harbor, Michigan, she was a daughter to the late Harold and Genevieve DeWitt and grew into a remarkable woman who touched the lives of many.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard Sobieralski and her siblings, Duane DeWitt, Wathena "Wally" Dodge, Joan Mills and her twin brother, Jack DeWitt. Her legacy continues through her devoted children, Todd (Becky) Sobieralski Sr., and Dawn (Mike) Richards, as well as her adored grandchildren Todd (Blanca) Sobieralski Jr., Joe Sobieralski, Nathan (Kelly) Semrinec, Garrett (Lauren) Semrinec, Elliott (Rachel) Richards, and her cherished great-grandchildren Olivia Semrinec, Kennedy Semrinec, Kaylee Semrinec, Adalynn Semrinec, Madeline Richards, Victoria Sobieralski and Hannah Bradbury.

Jill worked various manufacturing jobs eventually landing at Schneider Vending, retiring after 12 years as a food service worker, known for her strong work ethic and love of cooking. She was a great friend to many and her genuine warmth is going to be missed.

Known for her "always requested" potato salad, Jill also loved to travel and shop. She took great pride in her home and yard. Friends and family often spoke of her meticulous nature and how she created a welcoming and beautiful space for all to enjoy. Her favorite times were those spent with her grandchildren, hosting sleepovers filled with games and movies, followed by her special breakfast of eggs and bacon. She also never missed attending her grandchildren's sporting events.

Her passing is a great loss to all that knew her. May her soul rest in peace as we celebrate the remarkable woman she was and the incredible legacy she leaves behind.

A time of visitation will take place on Sunday, July 27, 2025 from 5-6 p.m. at Brown Funeral Home, with services the following day, Monday July 28, 2025 beginning at 11 a.m. She will be laid to rest at Mission Hills Memorial Gardens

Special thanks to the caring staff at Brentwood and Heartland Hospice for the care they provided.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation have been asked to consider Alzheimer's Association 111 Sunnybrook Ct, South Bend, IN 46637.

Photo's condolences and memories can be left for her family at BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Elaine E. Metzger

May 29, 1953 - July 20, 2025

Elaine Estrid Metzger was born on May 29, 1953 to Martin and Geri Flink and grew up in Park Forest, Illinois. She graduated from St Francis School of Nursing with an RN degree and began working in Indianapolis, where she met her future husband, Dan who was a medical student at the time. They were wed on September 18, 1977. After Dan did a Family Practice residency in South Bend, they moved to work at a remote small hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where they served for 6 years. Elaine served in various capacities and was dearly loved by nationals and fellow missionaries. Upon retiring from the mission field, they moved to Niles, Michigan in 1990.

Besides being a homemaker and homeschool mom to their son, she was also Board President and later Interim Director of our local crisis pregnancy center (currently LifePlan). She also served as crew nurse for a 6 month stint on the Mercy Ship, was past director of Women's Ministry at Summit Church, and held various offices including President of the Four Flags Garden Club. The past several years, she has also worked as a nurse at Southwestern Medical Clinic in the same office as her husband. In spite of all her drive and accomplishments, she was never happier than when she was putzing around in her gardens or hiking with her husband and friends.

She passionately loved her Lord Jesus and was eager to share the Good News about Him with whomever was willing to listen. Several women have grown in their faith through her mentoring.

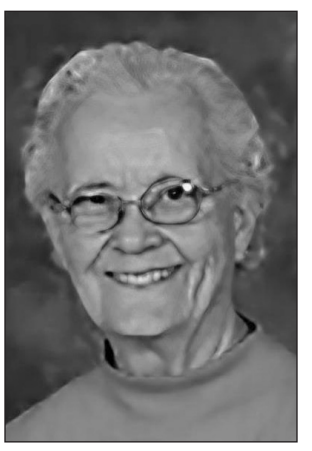
Having enjoyed good health for most of her 72 years, it came as a surprise when she was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in May for which there is not currently any good treatment options. The family is grateful for the compassionate and helpful care provided by Hospice.

She is survived by her husband, Daniel; their son Jonathan; her brother Steve (Cathy) Flink; brother-in-law Harry (Catherine Metzger) and their wonderful children and grandchildren.

Family will gather Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at Halbritter/Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street, Niles from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. Services will take place in Summit Church, 1700 W River Rd, Niles the next day, Thursday July 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions can be made to Lifeplan crisis pregnancy center, though "flowers will be welcome".

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.



Joyce Bailey

February 18, 1935 - July 22, 2025

Joyce L. Bailey, 90, a lifelong resident of Dowagiac, passed away Tuesday evening, July 22, 2025, at The Timbers of Cass County.

She was born on February 18, 1935, in Niles, MI, daughter of the late Homer and Virginia (Foreman) Bailey. Joyce was a 1953 graduate of Dowagiac Union High School. She was very athletic and loved sports. She played softball for Dowagiac and won the All-Sports award for Dowagiac High School. Joyce was an avid Dowagiac Chieftain fan and was an over 55-year Dowagiac football season ticket holder.

She was employed by F.W. Woolworth Co in downtown Dowagiac for 43 years, until their closing in 1991. Joyce then began working for Dowagiac Union High School and McLauchlin-Clark Funeral Home (now Starks Family Funeral Homes) for many years until her retirement in 2016.

Surviving are her brother, Michael (Sandy Rank) Bailey; nieces and nephews, Julie (Jeff) Young, Mike (April) Bailey, Greg (Lauryn) Pruett, and Karen (Gary Peraino) Rutherford; grandnieces and grandnephews, Connor Bailey, Keagan Bailey, Shereé Irwin, Jennifer (Dan) Cook, Pamela (Jason) Olivarez, Mark (Kim) Pruett, Jodi Pruett, and Delaney (Riley) Rutherford; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Preceding her in death were longtime companion, Martha Bosworth; sister, Marcia Pruett, and niece, Linda Pruett.

Joyce's family would like to give a special thank you to Jason and Chrissy Grant for all the love, care, and support they provided Joyce. She truly loved their family. Also, much appreciation to the staff at The Timbers of Cass County for the loving care given to Joyce during her final years.

A service to celebrate Joyce's life will be held at 12:00 PM on Saturday, July 26, at Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, 405 Center St, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with her family from 11:00 AM until the time of service. Pastor Stacey Wilder of Calvary Bible Church will officiate. Private family inurnment will be in Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions in Joyce's name may be directed to Dowagiac Athletic Boosters. To share a memory or message of condolence, please visit Joyce's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

FAIR

Continued from page A1

•2 p.m. Youth Livestock Exhibits must be in place

•2:30 p.m. Youth Still Exhibit Auction (CB)

•4 p.m. Open Class Floriculture & Horticulture must be in place (EC)

•5 p.m. Youth Draft Horse Evaluations (DHB)

•5 p.m. FAIR OPENING CEREMONIES / PARADE

(Grandstands will be cleared after parade) (GS)

•7 p.m. Street legal pickup truck and semi tractor pull (GS)

MONDAY, July 28 – Veterans' Day

•8 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Dairy Show (SA)

•8 a.m. Youth Halter, Western & Ranch Showmanship, English Showmanship, Keyhole, Speed & Action (HR)

•8:30 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Sheep Show (SA)

•10 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Cat Show (CB)

•3:30 p.m. Youth Dairy Feeder Steer Show (SA)

•6 p.m. Draft Horse Pulling Contest (DHR)

•7 p.m. TNT Derby (GS)

TUESDAY, July 29 – Kiddies' Day (6-12 Year Olds)

•8 a.m. Scales open for Farm Tractor Pull (IF)

•8 a.m. Youth Horse Showmanship Championships, English Equitation, English Pleasure, Hunter Over Fences, Flags, Cloverleaf (HR)

•9 a.m. FARM TRACTOR & ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL (GS)

•9 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Swine Show (SA)

•1 p.m. Kiddies' Day Program (1-2:30 p.m.) (CB)

•2 p.m. Carnival Opens (MW)

•5 p.m. Open & Youth Draft Horse Cart & Youth Team classes (DHR)

•7 p.m. NTPA TRACTOR & TRUCK PULLS (GS)

WEDNESDAY, July 30 – Law Enforcement Day

•8 a.m. Youth Horse & Pony – Western & Ranch Horsemanship, Western & Ranch Pleasure, Versatility (HR)

•8 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Rabbit Show (Show Tent)

•9 a.m. Youth Beef Show (SA)

•10 a.m. Draft Horse Halter Classes (DHR)

•1:30 p.m. Youth Goat Show (All classes except cart, obstacle, and costume) (SA)

•3 p.m. Carnival Opens (MW)

•6:30 p.m. Youth Draft Horse Showmanship, Decorating, Bareback Riding (DHR)

•7 p.m. Super Kickers Rodeo (GS)

THURSDAY, July 31 – Senior Citizens' Day (60 and older)

•8:30 a.m. Youth Horse & Pony Show – English/Western Riding, Reining, Free Style Reining, Kegs, Poles (HR)

•9 a.m. Youth & Pee Wee/Cloverbud Poultry Show (Show Tent)

•9 a.m. Senior Citizens Day Program – Presented by Cass County Council on Aging (CB)

•10 a.m. Youth Market Livestock Auction – Beef, Dairy Feeder, Lambs, Milk, Swine (SA)

NOTE: Buyer Dinner will be provided during the auction with no organized break

•3 p.m. Carnival Opens (MW)

•3 p.m. Euchre Tournament (CB)

•6 p.m. Draft Horse Utility Classes followed by Obstacle Class (DHR)

•7 p.m. Night Moves – Bob Seger Tribute Band GS)

FRIDAY, Aug. 1 – Frontline Friday/Health Care Providers Day

•8 a.m. Youth Horse & Pony – Trail, Dressage, Gymkhana Championships (HR)

•10 a.m. Pedal Pull (IMPL. ROW)

•10 a.m. Youth Livestock Judging Contest (SA)

•1 p.m. Youth Interviews & Demonstrations (CB)

•2 p.m. Ag Olympics (SA)

•3 p.m. Carnival Opens (MW)

•4 p.m. Youth Goat Costume, Cart, & Obstacle Show (following Ag Olympics) (Show Tent)

•4 p.m. Small Animal Sweepstakes (SA)

•6 p.m. Showmanship Sweepstakes (SA)

•7 p.m. TNT DERBY (GS)

•At Dusk Fireworks (rain date: Saturday) (GS)

SATURDAY, Aug. 2 – Family $1 Day, Noon to 3 p.m.

•9 a.m. Youth Horse & Pony – Costume, Cloverbud/Pee Wee, Award Ceremony, Last Ride (HR)

•9 a.m. Youth Small Animal Auction – Rabbits, Eggs, Poultry, Goats (SA)

•10 a.m. (Drive In) Open Draft & Light Draft Cart & Hitch Show (DHR)

•12 noon Carnival Opens (MW)

•3 p.m. Adult Alumni Horse Show Fundraiser (HR)

•7 p.m. MUD MITTEN RACE SERIES – MUD TRUCK RACING (GS)

•8:45 p.m. Home Arts Quilt Raffle Drawing (FO)

SUNDAY, Aug. 1

•Exhibits Released

•9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Release of 4-H Still Exhibits, Open Class Home Arts, Fine Arts, Horticulture, and Floriculture Exhibits (EC)

For more information, visit mycasscountyfair.com.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

L	A	C	■	S	L	E	W	■	S	P	A	M
A	B	A	■	P	A	T	E	■	I	R	M	A
V	E	R	T	I	C	A	L	■	R	A	I	L
A	T	T	I	R	E	■	T	R	E	N	D	■
■	■	■	L	I	S	■	■	I	N	K	■	■
F	A	U	L	T	■	A	R	T	■	S	H	Y
E	L	L	■	■	S	U	E	Z	■	T	O	O
T	A	T	■	M	I	N	T	■	■	E	L	K
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N	O	T	A	■	P	A	L	I	S	A	D	E
C	O	U	P	■	A	C	L	U	■	T	E	A
O	N	M	E	■	R	E	A	M	■	H	E	M

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

5	4	9	7	8	2	1	3	6
7	1	2	3	5	6	8	4	9
6	3	8	9	1	4	7	2	5
8	9	1	6	7	3	4	5	2
2	5	4	1	9	8	6	7	3
3	6	7	4	2	5	9	8	1
4	2	6	8	3	9	5	1	7
9	7	5	2	4	1	3	6	8
1	8	3	5	6	7	2	9	4

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Court: Members of the Miss Niles and Apple Festival courts pose with Miss and Mr. Niles Brentwood Liz Heater and Carl Stevens.

A golden celebration

Brentwood at Niles hosts pageant for seniors

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A Niles senior-living community teamed up with local pageant royalty Wednesday to host southwest Michigan's newest pageant.

Brentwood at Niles teamed up with the Miss Niles Scholarship Pageant and the Miss Apple Festival Pageant to host a Miss and Mr. Niles Brentwood Pageant.

Coordinated by members of the Miss Niles and Apple Festival courts, the pageant featured 23 contestants from Brentwood, who each participated in a walkthrough down the runway escorted by pageant court members. Miss Niles 2025 Grabrielle Gittens emceed the event.

"It's the first time they've ever done this, so coming in, I didn't really know what to expect," Gittens said. "It was really exciting getting to talk to everyone who participated and getting to root for people."

Judges made up of members of both courts chose five women and three men from the group of 23 to advance to the final round, where the winner was determined based on the level of applause received by their peers in attendance. When the dust settled, Carl Stevens and Elizabeth Heater were crowned Mr. and Miss Niles Brentwood.

Before her time at Brentwood, Heater was an avid farmer.

"It feels wonderful," Heater said. "I never expected anything like this."

Stevens served in the National Guard for 13 years. The honor was a pleasant surprise for Stevens, who has been with Brentwood for six months.

"Thank you for having us here," Stevens said. "The pageant committees did a nice job."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

Monuments By Design LLC
Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
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monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

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BBQ

Continued from page A1

in the BBQ world — and this year, three competitors exceeded that mark. Plus, last year's Dowagiac Grand Champion, which is the team with the highest point total for chicken and ribs combined, went on to win the national backyard prize. Just like the city of Dowagiac, our BBQ competition punches above its weight, and I'm so proud."

The event is part of Dowagiac's Summer Festival, an annual two-day street festival that saw thousands of people descend on downtown Dowagiac to peruse shops, enjoy activities and visit the record 90 vendors and food trucks. This year, organizers increased the number of free children's activities in place of paid rides. Hundreds of children enjoyed the pop-up splash pad on Commercial Street, which included multiple giant inflatable water slides. The Dowagiac District Library organized a Color Fight where participants sprayed each other using washable colored powders.

The event also featured a bolstered music lineup. On Saturday, three artists performed sets on Beeson Street: The Undertakers Blues Band from Sister Lakes, JP & The Energy from Lansing and Denise Davis and The Motor City Sensations from Detroit.

The event was sponsor-driven through the support of Lyons Industries, Twisted Bee, Southwestern Michigan College, Sturgis Bank — Niles Branch, D. Mottl Realty, Xfinity, MEC, Budweiser and Mennel Milling.

BBQ competition results

Grand Champion: BBQ Mike

Reserve Champion: Smokey GQ

Chicken Category

1st: Smokey GQ *** perfect score and special recognition from KCBS!

2nd: BBQ Mike

3rd: Hoosier BBQ

4th: Smokey J's BBQ

5th: Porkasaurus Rex

6th: Preachers BBQ

7th: Red Hog BBQ

8th: Wapatui Smokers

9th: Skinny Pig

10th: Shmack Q

Ribs Category

1st: Smokey Js

2nd: Skinny Pig

3rd: BBQ Mike

4th: Wapatui Smokers

5th: Smokey GQ

6th: Preachers BBQ

7th: Shmack Q

8th: Hoosier BBQ

9th: Jughead's BBQ

10th: Los Primos

RALLY

Continued from page A2

she objects to living in what she views as a dictatorship.

"I find that no matter how bad things look, inactivity never helps the situation," she said. "When I think about all the things my parents and grandparents had to endure, and watching it all just fall apart in a few short months, I felt it was time for a little Good Trouble."

The Cassopolis rally also featured reflections on John Lewis from Gerry Bundle, a resident of Jefferson Township. Bundle recalled the time he unexpectedly shared a seat with Lewis on a flight out of Atlanta. Bundle emphasized three things that stood out to him from his conversation with Lewis: his humility, his commitment to non-violence, and the encouragement Lewis gave him to act, best captured by Lewis's words, "If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it."

"I am standing here today to fulfill that obligation by sharing a few things that are not right: Taking away $80 million in refunds owed to current and former members of our military and their families for illegal 'surprise fees' charged by their financial institution is not right," Bundle said. "Taxing wealth less than we tax work is not right. Judging someone by the color of their skin, rather than the content of their character, is not right. Ethnic cleansing under the guise of border security is not right."

Bundle challenged the group to answer Lewis's call to "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Organizers of the rally are planning additional events throughout the summer.

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Dowagiac Daily News
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
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BASEBALL

Niles sent two players to compete in the Prep Baseball Senior Future Games...

Niles sends two to all-star game

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Submitted | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

EMERSON, Ga. — Niles sent two players to compete in the Prep Baseball Senior Future Games Wednesday at the LakePoint Sports Complex in Emerson, Georgia.

Jaxen Racht and Brenden Olsen represented Niles baseball at the Senior Future Games, an exclusive two-day, invitation-only event for the best Class of 2026 prospects from across the Prep Baseball Report Coverage Area.

WRESTLING

Nate named State Athletic Director of the Year

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Nate

DOWAGIAC — A local athletic director was recognized for his contributions to growing the sport of wrestling.

Dowagiac Athletic Director Brent Nate has been honored with the title of State Athletic Director of the Year by the Michigan Wrestling Association. The recognition comes as a result of a nomination by Wrestling Coach Colin Burandt.

The Special Awards program was established by the MWA in 2017 to recognize outstanding individuals at the grassroots level that make a difference for children that participate in the sport of wrestling.

The MWA will formally acknowledge Nate's contributions with an award during their annual Hall of Fame banquet on November 8, 2025.

HOMETOWN HERO

Ethan Saylor wins 51st annual Steve's Run 5K

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A familiar face finished first in the 51st annual Steve's Run Friday, July 18 in downtown Dowagiac.

Ethan Saylor of Dowagiac crossed the finish line with a winning time of 16:29 in front of his hometown crowd. Shawn Bell placed second with a time of 17:15 and Braden Bachmann was third in 17:39.

"It was good," Ethan said of his race. "Earlier it was cool and cloudy but the sun came and it got warm."

Elizabeth Carroll, a high school junior from Burlingame, California, was the women's overall winner with a time of 22:34. Logan Thibodeau won the men's 10K with a clocking of 37:48 and Daniella Romero was the women's winner with a time of 50:54.

The money raised through the 5K run/walk, 10K and fun run benefit cancer research and scholarships.

Ethan is the middle Saylor son between Alec, who he ran with at Southwestern Michigan College in the 2021-2022 season, helping to restart and immediately lift the program back into a top-20 national ranking after a 25-year hiatus. Ethan then continued at SMC in 2022-2023, graduated in May 2023 and has run for two years at Goshen College, an NAIA program in Goshen, Indiana. His youngest brother, Owen, will run for the Roadrunners this fall.

Alec won the race's 10K in 2022 and Owen earned a runner-up 5K finish in 2022.

Ethan enjoyed competing in front of the hometown crowd.

"It was amazing," he said. "Usually I take this time and use it for training but this year I'm done with college. I wanted to come out here and run the local race and enjoy it."

While Carroll lives almost 2,300 miles from Dowagiac in California, she often spends part of her summers with her grandparents in Marcellus. She said her grandfather is familiar with the annual race and signed her family up.

"He said 'why don't we all sign up,'" she said. "I have a ton of family running out here today."

Caroll competes for her high school's track and cross country teams. Her personal best 5K time is 18:56, which she ran at the California state meet.

"I just love running so honestly this was so great that this was out here today," she said. "I always try to run on vacation."

Both Saylor and Caroll enjoyed the Steve's Run experience and exploring downtown Dowagiac.

"It means a lot to my family," Saylor said. "Saylor's Pizza, [SMC coach Zac Sartori] is amazing; he is a big inspiration and a really good coach. It's awesome to be out here. I love the community, I love it all."

"It was so much fun," she said. "I had no idea about the festival. We were surprised to show up to see rides and food and so much energy and fun. This is great."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TOP PHOTOS: Hundreds of racers competed in the 51st annual Steve's Run Friday, July 18 in downtown Dowagiac. LEFT: Dowagiac's Ethan Saylor took first place in the 51st annual Steve's Run in downtown Dowagiac. FAR LEFT: Elizabeth Carroll, a high school junior from Burlingame, California, was the women's overall winner with a time of 22:34.

GOLF

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ABOVE: From left: John Kessick, Larry Larson, Chris Gessinger.
RIGHT: Monica Schmidt, Candy Seals, Mary Jane Lorance.

Lorance, Larson win Niles City Golf Tournament

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Mary Jane Lorance is a champion once again.

Lorance edged former champion Candy Seals by two strokes last weekend to win the Niles City Golf Tournament's Women's Division title at Plym Park Golf Course. Monica Schmidt finished three shots behind Lorance in third place.

Lorance finished with a two-day total of 180. Seals shot 182 while Schmidt shot 183.

On the men's side, Larry Larson fired a 146 to win the Men's Division. John Kessick placed second with 152 and Chris Gessinger and Rick Lewis tied for third place with a score of 154.

The 2025 Niles City Golf Tournament will wrap up Saturday and Sunday with the A, B and C Flights at Plym Park.

BASEBALL

Dowagiac youth slugger's hot streak continues

COMMUNITY REPORT

COLOMA — After a four-home run performance in four games last weekend, Nolan Lawrence is showing no signs of cooling down.

Over the past four games, the U-10 Dowagiac All Stars slugger has continued to punish the baseball this summer. In the last week alone, Lawrence went 9-of-11 with five home runs in four games and notching six runs, 10 RBIs, and two doubles.

Lawrence is batting almost .700 with nine home runs and has accounted for 36 of his team's 159 runs scored in 19 games.

The team finishes their All Stars season next week with a tournament in Howard Township.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

BASEBALL

Hoover, Ostrander help WMU baseball earn Team Academic Excellence Award

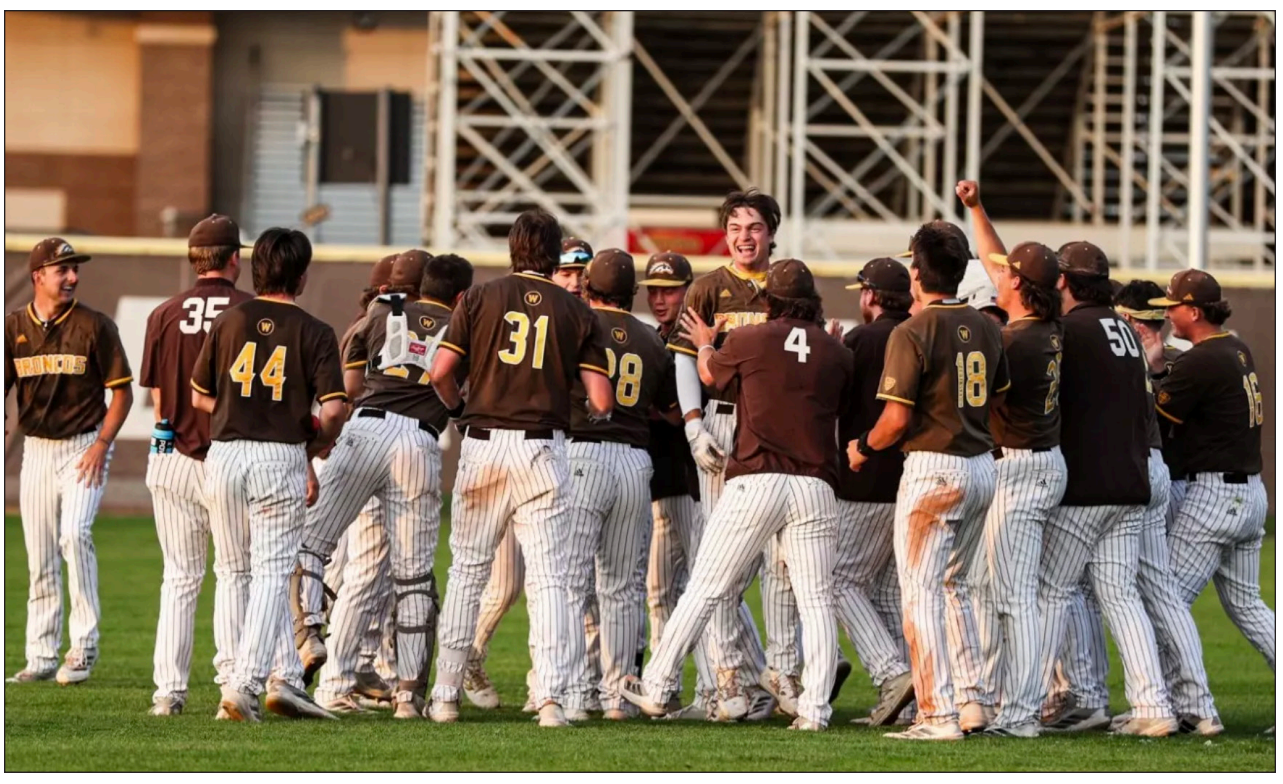

PHOTO SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Courtesy of WMU Athletics

KALAMAZOO — For the eighth consecutive year, the Western Michigan baseball team has earned the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award, presented by Sports Attack, for the 2024-25 academic year.

The award recognizes programs coached by ABCA members whose team GPA is 3.0 or higher for the entire 2024-25 academic year.

Head coach Billy Gernon's squad posted a 3.57 cumulative GPA for the year, with a 3.60 GPA in the fall semester followed up by a 3.54 GPA in the spring to extend the program's streak of consecutive semesters with a team GPA of 3.5 or higher to 15 in a row. Across the two semesters, WMU boasted a total of 14 4.0 GPAs. In the fall, 25 Broncos made the Dean's List, with 20 then making the Dean's List in the spring.

Hoover

Ostrander

Western Michigan led the conference with 14 Academic All-MAC selections, with Turner Doran, Jake Gernon, Brendan Harrity, Matt Hoover, Cooper Hums, Tanner Mally, Michael Maloney, Grady Mee, Dylan Nevar, Connor Ostrander, Lucas Rick, Joe Shapiro, Avery Thielman and DJ Thompson all earning the honor. Additionally, Reese Gaber, Mally, Maloney, Ty McKinstry and Nevar were each named College Sports Communicators Academic All-District® selections.

FOOTBALL

Freeman Selected to IBJ Media Indiana 250

Courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Dick Corbett Head Football Coach Marcus Freeman has been selected to IBJ Media's Indiana 250, recognizing the 250 most influential and impactful leaders in the state of Indiana.

Now in its fourth year, the Indiana 250 list recognizes individuals ranging across several sectors, spanning business, law, government, universities, community organizations and more. The list is compiled through a monthslong process by the executives, editors and newsroom staffs at IBJ Media's three publications: Indianapolis Business Journal, Inside INdiana Business and Indiana Lawyer.

Freeman, beginning his fourth season at the helm of the Notre Dame program, is known across the college sports industry as an effective leader and active member of the local community. He has earned several accolades for his leadership and team success, in addition to his dedicated community service.

He enters the 2025 season after leading Notre Dame to a National Championship appearance and a 14-2 record in 2024, with a final Associated Press ranking of No. 2. He was honored with several coaching awards during the 2024 season, including: the Dodd Trophy; the Paul "Bear" Bryant Coach of the Year Award; the George Munger College Coach of the Year Award; the National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches College Coach of the Year honor; and the Ted Ginn Sr. Coach of the Year Award from the National Alliance of African American Athletes. He has already been named to the watch list for the 2025 Dodd Trophy.

He was also honored in 2024 as the honorary head coach for the 2024 AFCA Allstate Good Works Team, which recognizes community impact and involvement. Freeman is an avid, consistent supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michiana, an organization which helps patients and their families during extended hospital stays. Each Friday before home games during the season, Freeman visits the patients and their families, bringing along student-athletes who would like to join him. The group delivers lunches and brings Notre Dame gifts and games to the patients. However, the most important part of the visit is the time spent with each patient, getting to know them and playing games.

Freeman has also taken part in numerous charitable engagements, including visiting local schools such as St. Adalbert Catholic School in South Bend, where he surprised students with tickets to the spring football game, and speaking at philanthropic events, such as Erin's House for Grieving Children, which supports families who have experienced a death.

He joins several representatives of the sports industry on the list, including Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever, Carlie Irsay-Gordon of the Indianapolis Colts and Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers.

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Township of Silver Creek
Cass County, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor and Assessor have prepared and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll covering all properties within the Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs as shown on the plans and estimate of costs on file with the Township Clerk.
The roll for **Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $28,963.72 with a proposed special assessment of up to $67.91 per occupied unit. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.
The roll for **Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $16,838.30 with a proposed special assessment of up to $97.61 per unit. For further information you are invited to examine the roll. (I think we should reduce by 50%)
The roll for **Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District** is in the total amount of $5,179.02 with a proposed special assessment of up to $87.78 per parcel. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. After the public hearing, the Township Board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended. The roll may be examined by contacting the Township Clerk at (269) 448-0142 or via email at clerk@silvercreektwpmi.gov during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. Please also note that an owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment in writing, or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in that event, personal appearance shall not be required. The owners or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in writing at or before the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after confirmation of the special assessment roll.
Silver Creek Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.
After the public hearing, the township board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide for payment of special assessments with interest; and may provide by resolution for such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to special assessments for **Magician Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, the Dewey Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District, and the Little Crooked Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District.**
All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing to submit comments.
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
Jessica Honn, Clerk
P.O. Box 464
32764 Dixon Street
Dowagiac, MI
(269) 448-0142
www.silvercreektwpmi.gov

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26 and Aug. 2 , 2025
HEARING 08.13.25

Looking for a home?

Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Silver Creek Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and meeting on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047, within the Township.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said meeting are as follows:
• The request of Dan Tyner and Hemlock Island Association, Inc for special land use and site plan approval for a private marina and parking lot on their property addressed as 31313 County Line Road, Dowagiac, MI (Parcel No. 14-130-245-043-00; legally described as Lots 42 (lake side) and Lot 61 (across the street, both in Krohne's Peninisula plan. The zoning ordinance is codified at Section 155 et seq of the Silver Creek Township Code of Ordinances, which can be accessed online at www.silvercreektwpmi.gov/forms-permits-and-resources/. The property is located in the WD Waterfront Residential District Zoning Classification. District regulations are contained in Section 155.079. Zoning definitions are contained in Section 155.006. Special land use considerations for the Planning Commission are contained in Section 155.130 et seq. Marina Special Land Use standards are contained in Section 155.174. Site plan review standards are contained in Section 155. Off-street Parking requirements are contained in Section 155.115 et seq.
• Such other and further matters as may properly come before the planning commission.
Anyone interested in reviewing the application for the above or the Township Zoning Ordinance may examine a copy of the same at the Silver Creek Township Hall during regular business hours of regular business days hereafter until noon on the date of the hearing and may further examine the same at said public hearing/meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible via internet at www.silvercreektwpmi.gov.
Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing by the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the hearing and may be further received by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing.
All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.
Silver Creek Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Jess Honn, Township Clerk
32764 Dixon St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 424-3025
www.silvercreektwpmi.org

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, 2025
HEARING 08.27.25

Selling your home?
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Call Classifieds at 269-591-6105.

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Sheldon Treat, a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): CLICK N' CLOSE, INC.
Date of Mortgage: June 16, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 19, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $89,133.97
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Porter, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Numbered 13 in Union Heights Number 2 according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber I-J of Plats, Page 485, Cass County Records.
Common street address (if any): 15765 Mason St, Union, MI 49130-9628
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 5, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1565313
(07-05)(07-26)

Dowagiac Daily News:
Jul. 5, 12, 19 and 26 2025
1565313 TREAT

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 2025-165-DE
AND JUDGE
CAROL M. BEALOR
(P57068)
COURT ADDRESS 60296
M-62, CASSOPOLIS,
MICHIGAN 49031
COURT TELEPHONE NO.
(269)445-4454

Estate of Linda Jean Lorenz a/k/a Linda J. Lorenz, deceased
Date of Birth: March 22, 1948
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Linda Jean Lorenz a/k/a Linda J. Lorenz, died May 8, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William Lorenz, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 22, 2025

William Lorenz
511 Green Street
Dowagic, Michigan 49047
317-460-4038

Peter M. Karlowicz P31695
P.O. Box 367
Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
(269)445-3871

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, 2025
EST/LORENZ, L.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Terri J. Bauer, whose address is 23515 Morton Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047, as original Mortgagors, to AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY, being a mortgage dated November 23, 2004, and recorded on December 17, 2004 in Liber 00900 Page 1603, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Ameriquest Mortgage Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-R3, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 15, 2009 and recorded on February 18, 2009 in Liber 989 Page 1742, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT AND 06/100 DOLLARS ($59,508.06). Said premises are situated in the Township of Wayne, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: BEGINNING AT THE NORTH QUARTER POST OF SECTION 14, TOWN 5 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST; THENCE WEST ON THE NORTH SECTION LINE 208.71 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03' 48" EAST 208.71 FEET; THENCE EAST 208.71 FEET TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH QUARTER LINE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 03' 48" WEST ON THE QUARTER LINE 208.71 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 23515 Morton Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: July 5, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6552
(07-05)(07-26)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 5, 12, 19 and 26 2025
1565654 BAUER

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. AND JUDGE
2025-128-DE

Court address Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
Court telephone no. 269/445-4454

Estate of Jill Ann Tevlin
Date of birth: 11/22/1964
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jill Ann Tevlin, died 04/04/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Corrina Stamper, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Law & Court Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
7/17/2025

Corrina Stamper 28780 Driftwood Drive Elkhart, IN 465156
574-226-8721

Thomas R. Betker, P55920, 511 Renaissance Drive, Suite 110, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, 269/983-5777

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, 2025
EST/TEVLIN, J.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Sheldon Treat, a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: April 30, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 7, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $244,764.13
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Jefferson, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Being in Section 17, Town 7 South, Range 15 West, commencing South 2091.74 feet and West 280
feet from the North 1/4 corner, thence West 272.3 feet, thence North 240 feet, thence East 272.3 feet,
thence South 240 feet to beginning.
Also South 00 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds West, along the North and South Quarter line, 481.88
feet from North Quarter corner of Section 17; thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 03 seconds West,
along the North line of the South 130.36 acres of the Northwest Quarter of said section, 1228.41 feet to
the West line of the East 60 acres of the South 130.36 acres of the Northwest Quarter of said section;
thence measure South 00 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds West, along said line, 1120.00 feet; thence
North 89 degrees 38 minutes 03 seconds East, parallel with the North line of the South 130.36 acres of
the Northwest quarter of said section, 294.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds
West, parallel with the North and South Quarter line, 249.96 feet to the point of beginning of the land
herein described; thence North 89 degrees 38 minutes 03 seconds East, parallel with the North line of
the South 130.36 acres of the Northwest Quarter of said section, 382.13 feet; thence South 00 degrees
02 minutes 27 seconds West 240.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 03 seconds West,
parallel with the North line of the South 130.36 acres of the Northwest Quarter of said section, 382.16
feet; thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds East, parallel with the North and South quarter
line, 240.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 64344 Birdie Ln, Cassopolis, MI 49031-9676
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 12, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1566346
(07-12)(08-02)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2, 2025
1566346 STRICKLAND

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Sheldon Treat, a married man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): CLICK N' CLOSE, INC.
Date of Mortgage: June 16, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 19, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $89,133.97
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Porter, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Numbered 13 in Union Heights Number 2 according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber I-J of Plats, Page 485, Cass County Records.
Common street address (if any): 15765 Mason St, Union, MI 49130-9628
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: July 5, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145 Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1565313
(07-05)(07-26)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2 2025
1566357 FRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Kathy A. Phillips, a single woman, whose address is 61115 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan 49120, as original Mortgagors, to Greenpoint Credit Corp., being a mortgage dated June 10, 1999, and recorded on June 18, 1999 in Liber 00704 Page 0178, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned through mesne assignments to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation as Trustee for Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-1, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 19, 2024 and recorded on October 21, 2024 in Liber 1252 Page 389, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN AND 27/100 DOLLARS ($24,497.27). Said premises are situated in the Township of Pokagon, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE CENTER OF THE HIGHWAY 30 RODS SOUTH OF THE HALF MILE STAKE, ON NORTH SIDE OF SECTION 33 IN SAID TOWNSHIP, THENCE EAST 10 RODS, THENCE SOUTH 8 RODS, THENCE WEST 10 RODS, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE HIGHWAY 8 RODS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE-HALF ACRE OF LAND, ALL IN SECTION 33, TOWN 6 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST. Street Address: 61115 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: July 19, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6565
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 19, 26, Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566499 PHILLIPS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BERRIEN County, starting promptly at 11:00 AM, on August 15, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by George Joseph Banner and Linda Darlene Banner, husband and wife, whose address is 3603 North 5th Street, Niles, Michigan 49120, as original Mortgagors, to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., being a mortgage dated September 26, 2005, and recorded on December 9, 2005 in Liber 2671 Page 1445, Berrien County Records; Said Mortgage was also recorded in Cass County Register of Deeds on July 3, 2006 in Liber 939, Page 1246, State of Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned by said mortgagee to The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities Trust 2007-1, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated March 4, 2011 and recorded on March 21, 2011 in Liber 2952 Page 210, Berrien County Records; Said Assignment of Mortgage was also recorded in Cass County Register of Deeds on March 21, 2011 in Liber 1023, Page 1143, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 33/100 DOLLARS ($121,456.33). Said premises are situated in the Township of Niles in Berrien County and Township of Howard in Cass County, State of Michigan, and are described as: Parcel No. 1: Township of Niles, Berrien County, Michigan. Part of the Southeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 7 South, Range 17 West, and part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 12, said Township and Range, described as follows: Commencing on the East line of said Section 12 at a point 2446.7 feet North of the East Quarter post of said Section 12, thence North 64° 36' West 206.16 feet to the Easterly right of way line of State Highway M-40, said line being 60 feet Easterly measured at right angles to the center of pavement of said highway, thence North 30° 48' East along said Easterly right of way line 271 feet to the center of Kinzie Creek, thence Southeasterly along the center of said creek to the East line of said Section 1, thence South along the East line of said Sections 1 and 12 275 feet to the place of beginning; ALSO the right to use a 66 foot right of way for ingress and egress, said right of way being adjacent to the Southerly side of the above described parcel and running Westerly to the public highway Parcel No. 2: Township of Howard, Cass County, Michigan Part of Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 16 West, described as follows: Commencing at a point which is 2454.3 feet North of the West Quarter post of said Section 7, thence South 64° 36' East 126.52 feet, thence North 25° 24' East 226.0 feet, more or less, to the centerline of Kinzie Creek, thence Northwesterly along centerline of Kinzie Creek to the West line of Section 6, said township and range, thence South 275.0 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning. Street Address: 3603 North 5th Street, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: July 12, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6542
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 19, 26. Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566591 BANNER

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Ross P. Ashley and Angelina L. Ashley, Husband and Wife Original Mortgagee: JMS Manufactured Housing, Inc. Date of mortgage: September 27, 1995 Recorded on September 27, 1995, Liber 596, on Page 1299, and re-recorded via Re-Recorded Mortgage on February 22, 1996, Liber 604, on Page 1145, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): US Bank National Association as trustee on behalf of Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1995-9 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven and 53/100 Dollars ($9,987.53) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 79 in Andrew Lester`s

Finally! Satellite Internet
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1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

Legal Notices

addition to the city of Dowagiac according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly known as 211 Bradly St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. US Bank National Association as trustee on behalf of Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1995-9 Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1566934
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News: July 19, 26. Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566934 ASHLEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Patricia Ann LaBelle a/k/a Patricia A. LaBelle, unmarried Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: March 29, 2013 Recorded on April 15, 2013, Liber 1058, on Page 1395, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Five and 63/100 Dollars ($73,345.63) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Beginning on the West section line of Section Seven (7), Town Five (5) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, at a point West of an iron pipe located on the East side of Highway M-40 (now Highway M-51) a distance of 695 feet, more or less, North of the Southwest corner of said Section 7; thence East through said iron pipe a distance of 410 feet; thence North parallel to said section line a distance of 425 feet; thence West to said section line, a distance of 410 feet; thence South along said section line, 425 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 51831 M 51 Hwy, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1566939
(07-19)(08-09)

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 19, 26. Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
1566939 LABELLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF INDIANA
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
SS:
IN THE ST. JOSEPH PROBATE COURT
CAUSE NUMBER: 71J01-2501-JT-96
IN RE THE TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP OF:
Baby Boy Betts,
(a Safe Haven Infant),
AND
UNNAMED PARENT 1
UNNAMED PARENT 2
SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING
NOTICE TO UNNAMED PARENT

To: The unnamed putative parent(s) of a Baby Boy Betts, a male infant that was voluntarily surrendered on July 10, 2025, in St. Joseph County, Indiana and born on approximately July 10, 2025, or the person who claims to be a parent of the infant,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship was filed in the office of the clerk of the St. Joseph County Probate Court, 1000 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601.
YOU MUST RESPOND If the unnamed putative parent seeks to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship of the infant, the unnamed putative parent must file a motion to contest the petition in accordance with IC 31-35-1.5-8 in the above-named court within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of service of this notice.
This notice may be served by publication.
You are further notified that if the unnamed putative parent does not file a motion to contest the petition within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the above-named court shall hear and determine the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship.
You are further notified that if the unnamed putative parent does not file a motion to contest the petition within thirty (30) days after service of this notice, the unnamed putative parent's consent is irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative parent loses the right to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship or the validity of the unnamed putative parent's implied consent to the termination of the parent-child relationship. The unnamed putative parent loses the right to establish a biological relationship with the child in Indiana or any other jurisdiction. Nothing anyone else says to the unnamed putative parent of the infant relieves the unnamed putative parent of his or her obligations under this notice.
Under Indiana law, a putative parent is a person who claims that he or she may be the father or mother of an infant who has been voluntarily surrendered but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child's father or mother.
This notice complies with IC 31-35-1.5-5 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative parent's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.
Amy Rolfes, Clerk of St. Joseph County

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, Aug. 2 and 9, 2025
71J01-2507-JT-96

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION
WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE
NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.
ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.
Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made the 26th day of February, 2021 made by Corrina J. Smith of 71034 Kessington Road, Union, MI 49031 as mortgagor, to Leslie R. Begley and Kendra L. Begley, husband and wife of 1503 W. Bristol Street, Elkhart, IN 46514 as mortgagee, and recorded March 3, 2021 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Cass, and State of Michigan, in Liber 1190 of records, page 2584 and the Mortgagee having elected under the terms of said Mortgage to declare the entire principal and accrued interest thereon due, which election it does hereby exercise, pursuant to which mortgagee claims due and unpaid at the date of this notice $760,535.28, principal and interest to date.
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 27, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at the Courthouse, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan, (that being the place for holding the Circuit Court for the County of Cass), there will be offered for sale to the highest bidder at Public Auction for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on said mortgage with interest thereon of 7.9% per cent per annum, and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including attorney fees as allowed by law and also any sums paid by the undersigned to protect its interest prior to said sale, which said premises are situated in the Township of Mason, County of Cass, described as:
Parcel 1: From the Northeast corner of Fractional Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, measure South 00°36'15" West, along the East line of said Section, 176.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described: thence continue South 00°36'15" West, along said Section line, 22.00 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, parallel with the North Section line, 657.64 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 1654.30 feet; thence North 89°21'04" West, 1974.85 feet to the North-South quarter line of said Section; thence North 00°42'09" East, along said quarter line, 1879.62 feet to the North quarter corner of said Section; thence South 88°33'26" East, along the North Section line, 1147.60 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 566.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 805.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 390.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, 677.63 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO that portion along the East side thereof as being used for roadway purposes. SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH A 66' WIDE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS/EGRESS AND UTILITY PLACEMENT. Tax ID No. 14-060-023-366-01 66 FOOT INGRESS/EGRESS/ UTILITY PLACEMENT EASEMENT: From the Northeast corner of Fractional Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West; measure South 00°36'15" West, along the East line of said Section, 132.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence continue South 00°36'15" West, along the East Section line, 66.00 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, parallel with the North Section line, 657.64 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West, 368.56 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West, 825.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 66.01 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 759.00 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East, 368.55 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East, parallel with the North Section line, 723.61 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO that portion along the East side thereof as being used for roadway purposes.
Parcel 2: Commencing South 00°36'15" West 154 feet from the Northeast corner of Section 23, Town 8 South, Range 14 West, thence South 00°36'15" West 22 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West 677.63 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West 390.56 feet; thence North 88°33'26" West 805 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East 566.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 455 feet; thence South 00°37'45" West 525.55 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 330 feet; thence North 00°37'45" East 371.56 feet; thence South 88°33'26" East 697.62 feet to the point of beginning. SUBJECT TO EASEMENT. Tax ID No. 14-060-023-366-31
The length of the period of redemption from such sale will be one year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241(a) in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
Dated: July 21, 2025
Prepared by:
Garrett T. McNally
JONES LAW OFFICE
Counsel for Mortgagee
120 West Main Street
Marcellus, Michigan 49067
Phone: 269/646-5511

Dowagiac Daily News:
July 26, Aug. 2, 9 and 16, 2025
FC/SMITH

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BEST OF MICHIANA | 2025 RESULTS

2025 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST
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Leader Publications
MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

LeaderPublications

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WELCOME TO THE 2025 BEST OF THE BEST READER'S CHOICE CONTEST RESULTS!

Whether it's the best place for a romantic dinner, reliable places for health care or financial services or a myriad of other services, we all love to seek advice from our friends, family and online reviews to find great products and services available to us in our community.

If you want to know what your neighbors in Southwest Michigan and beyond are recommending in more than 150 categories, you've come to the right place.

Welcome to the 2025 Best of the Best Reader's Choice Contest feature section sponsored by Leader Publications. including a listing of the "best" businesses in Michiana according to you, the readers of the Niles Daily Star, Dowagiac Daily News, The Leader, Edwardsburg Argus and the Cassopolis Vigilant.

Credibility is important to our readers and businesses when engaging in this special feature. Our newspaper does not provide names of businesses for readers to choose from during the nomination process, and that adds to the authenticity of this annual poll. The reader must provide a name of a business or organization and from there the top five vote-getters move onto the voting round. The field is then narrowed down to the top three and those names are provided in this highly anticipated feature.

Businesses are pleased to be recognized by the public. Treating your customers right and having great name recognition is helpful for a business to make the winner's list. Name recognition with positive feedback is what drives the winning ballot choices. While there are no cash prizes, business owners who rank among the best receive a "Best of" sticker to place in their window which indicates that business is a recipient of the award for that given year. This coveted sticker is usually placed on the front door by the business owner. Some businesses proudly display many years of winning stickers. Undoubtedly, these businesses are doing something right for their customers on a consistent basis.

We know great customer service is a key component when it comes to being a successful business as well as making sure they (potential customers) know you, before they need you. That's called top-of-mind-awareness and businesses that have great "TOMA" generally succeed. Consistently promoting a businesses' name, products and services is one tried and true method of finding and keeping customers.

COMMUNITY

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN BUCHANAN

- **Winner: Smoke Vision Care**
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Redbud Roots

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN CASSOPOLIS

- **Winner: Honor Credit Union**
- Finalist: Midwest Energy & Communications
- Finalist: Hydro Aluminum

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN DOWAGIAC

- **Winner: Twisted Bee**
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Smoke Vision Care

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN EDWARDSBURG

- **Winner: Flat Rock Grill**
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union
- Finalist: Circle Federal Credit Union

BEST PLACE TO WORK IN NILES

- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: Drive & Shine
- Finalist: Honor Credit Union

CHURCH

- **Winner: Hope Community Church**
- Finalist: Summit Church
- Finalist: Holy Maternity Of Mary Catholic Church

Thank you for voting us

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☑Best Realtor

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NON-PROFIT

- **Winner: Hidden Acres Safe Haven**
- Finalist: Fernwood Botanical Garden
- Finalist: Kari Cares Grief Support Center

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

- **Winner: Bee Crafty**
- Finalist: Niles Scream Park
- Finalist: The Underground Laugh Lounge

ASIAN FOOD

- **Winner: Ho Ping Garden**
- Finalist: Hot Wok
- Finalist: China Garden Restaurant

BAKERY

- **Winner: 2nd & Main Coffeehouse**
- Finalist: Divine Dough Co
- Finalist: The Baker's Rhapsody

BBQ

- **Winner: Curly Q's BBQ**
- Finalist: Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: MISSION BBQ

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Redbud Insurance Services: A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Honor Credit Union

BEST RESTAURANT IN BUCHANAN

- **Winner: Hilltop's Creekside Cafe**
- Finalist: McCoy Creek Tavern
- Finalist: Thistledown & Row

BEST RESTAURANT IN CASSOPOLIS

- **Winner: O'Neals SmokeHouse**
- Finalist: Lindy's Restaurant
- Finalist: The Twirl

BEST RESTAURANT IN DOWAGIAC

- **Winner: Sister Lakes Brewing Company**
- Finalist: Wounded Minnow Saloon
- Finalist: Oak and Ash BBQ & Catering

BEST RESTAURANT IN EDWARDSBURG

- **Winner: Flat Rock Grill**
- Finalist: Fat Cam's at Garver Lake
- Finalist: Divine Dough Co

BEST RESTAURANT IN NILES

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Pizza Transit
- Finalist: Prime Table Restaurant

BREAKFAST

- **Winner: Rise N Shine Cafe**
- Finalist: Prime Table Restaurant
- Finalist: 2nd & Main Coffeehouse

BREWERY

- **Winner: Niles Brewing Company**
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: River Saint Joe

BURGER

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: The Tavern, Niles
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company

CANNABIS

- **Winner: Twisted Bee**
- Finalist: Green Stem
- Finalist: Primitiv Group

CASINO

- **Winner: Four Winds Casino New Buffalo**
- Finalist: Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana
- Finalist: Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa

WOODLAND TERRACE
A Dockerty Family Senior Living Community

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BEST of the BEST
Leader Publications
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Surrounded by rolling meadows, beautiful trees, ponds and wetlands, Woodland Terrace of Longmeadow is Southwestern Michigan's finest Senior Living Residence in Niles, Michigan. Right off of US 31 at Niles-Buchanan Road, it is conveniently located within the Longmeadow development. Our location allows you to be close to a variety of medical amenities and professional services.

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CATERING

- **Winner: Jim's Smokin' Cafe**
- Finalist: SugarEllas Catering
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company

CHOCOLATE AND DESSERTS

- **Winner: Veni's Sweet Shop**
- Finalist: Caruso Candy & Soda Fountain
- Finalist: The Baker's Rhapsody

COFFEE OR TEA

- **Winner: Brew Ha Ha**
- Finalist: 2nd & Main Coffeehouse
- Finalist: Apothica Teas

DISTILLERY

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Journeyman Distillery
- Finalist: Decatur Stillhouse

FAMILY RESTAURANT

- **Winner: Prime Table Restaurant**
- Finalist: Pizza Transit
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery

FRENCH FRIES

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Hot Dogs Plus
- Finalist: Wings Etc.

GARDEN OR PARK

- **Winner: Fernwood Botanical Garden**
- Finalist: Potawatomi Zoo
- Finalist: St. Patrick's County Park

GOLF COURSE

- **Winner: Brookwood Golf Course**
- Finalist: Indian Lake Hills Golf Course
- Finalist: Diamond Lake Golf Club

ICE CREAM OR FROZEN YOGURT

- **Winner: Chunks Ice Cream**
- Finalist: Swirlyz
- Finalist: Slope Frozen Treats

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

- **Winner: Bee Crafty**
- Finalist: Niles Scream Park
- Finalist: Nitro Zone

ITALIAN FOOD

- **Winner: Pizza Transit**
- Finalist: Wood Fire Trattoria
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant Granger

MEXICAN FOOD

- **Winner: Taqueria Don Chepe**
- Finalist: El Amigo Pepe
- Finalist: Hacienda Mexican Restaurants

OUTDOOR DINING

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Sister Lakes Brewing Company
- Finalist: Front Street Pizza Pub

PIZZA

- **Winner: Pizza Transit**
- Finalist: Milanos - Buchanan
- Finalist: Front Street Pizza Pub

RESTAURANT SERVER NAME/BUSINESS

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery/Dianne Watson**
- Finalist: Paula Peacock/ Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Charline Fortuna/ Old tavern inn

ROMANTIC DINNER

- **Winner: The Embers at Signal Point**
- Finalist: Capri Italian Restaurant
- Finalist: Thistledown & Row

SANDWICH

- **Winner: Old Tavern Inn**
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Firehouse Subs

SEAFOOD

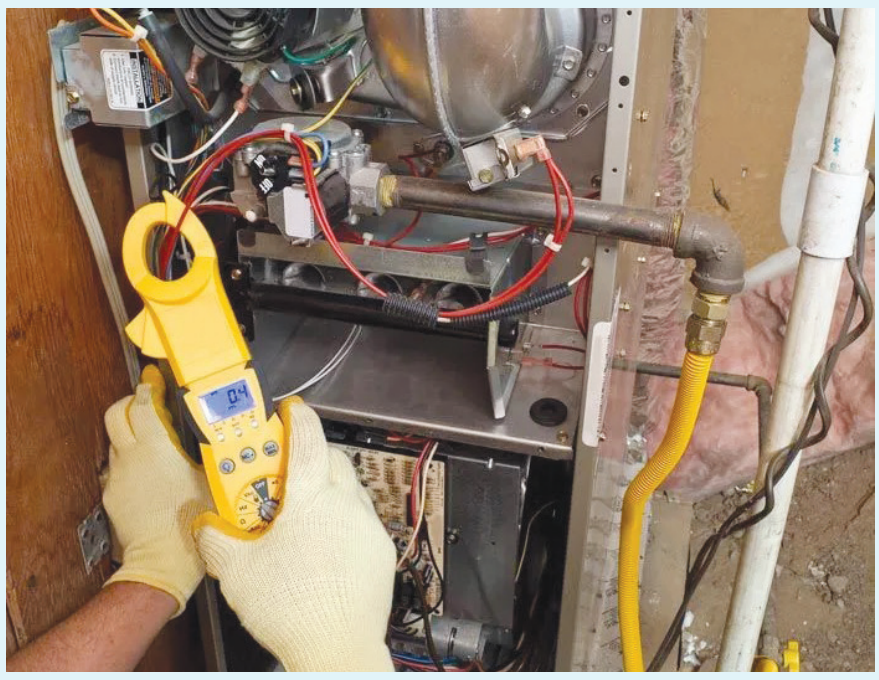
- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Thistledown & Row
- Finalist: Jim's Smokin' Cafe

STEAK

- **Winner: Copper Rock Steakhouse South Bend**
- Finalist: Jim's Smokin' Cafe
- Finalist: Cascade - South Bend IN

VEGETARIAN FOOD

- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Thistledown & Row
- Finalist: Pizza Transit



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- We offer quality services at competitive prices.
- We guarantee our work.

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Tire Shop & Oil Change

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ZOLMAN'S BEST ONE TIRE & AUTO CARE

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WINERY

- **Winner: Round Barn Winery & Estate**
- Finalist: Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant
- Finalist: Dablon Winery & Vineyards
-

WINGS

- **Winner: Wings Etc.**
- Finalist: Iron Shoe Distillery
- Finalist: Pizza Transit

EDUCATION

COLLEGE

- **Winner: Southwestern Michigan College**
- Finalist: Lake Michigan College
- Finalist: Kalamazoo Valley Community College

2025 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST
BEST of the BEST
Leader Publications
MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES
Thank you
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You voted Red Shoe Realty and our very own Cloë Mittan as Best of the Best Real Estate Agency & Best Realtor 2025!
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Leader Publications
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Best Realtor
Thank You from the Bottom of My Heart!
To all of my amazing clients your trust, support, and belief in me mean the world. Being voted Best Realtor is such an honor, and it reflects your confidence in my ability to guide you through one of life's biggest decisions. I'm truly grateful to be part of your journey.
~ Cloë Mittan
There's No Place Like Home
Jen Inman
Rachael Inman
Nancy Scheetz
Jade Fortier
Kati Luke
Jan Luke
Cloë Mittan

DAY CARE

- **Winner: Little Bucks Childcare**
- Finalist: Northside Child Development Center
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- **Winner: Brandywine Elementary**
- Finalist: Merritt Elementary School
- Finalist: Patrick Hamilton School

HIGH SCHOOL

- **Winner: Buchanan High School**
- Finalist: Brandywine High School
- Finalist: Eau Claire High School

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LIBRARY
- **Winner: Buchanan District Library**
- Finalist: Niles District Library
- Finalist: Dowagiac District Library

MIDDLE SCHOOL
- **Winner: Buchanan Middle School**
- Finalist: Brandywine Middle/ Senior High School
- Finalist: Dowagiac Middle School

HEALTH & WELLNESS

ASSISTED LIVING
- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: Chalet Of Niles
- Finalist: Forest Glen Assisted Living

AUDIOLOGIST
- **Winner: Michiana Hearing, Inc.**
- Finalist: Dr. Campbell's Hearing Solutions
- Finalist: Tricia Moreno, Au.D.

CARDIOVASCULAR CARE
- **Winner: Bronson advanced Cardiac Healthcare**
- Finalist: Cardiology Southwest PC - Dr. Huggett
- Finalist: Goshen Heart & Vascular Center
- Finalist: Great Lakes Heart & Vascular: Mihalik Scott A

CHIROPRACTOR
- **Winner: Pure Motion Chiropractic**
- Finalist: Complete Chiropractic
- Finalist: Alternative Wellness Center

DENTIST'S OFFICE
- **Winner: Four Flags Family Dentistry**
- Finalist: Niles Dental Associates, Kyle McGill DDS
- Finalist: Beyond Smiles

DERMATOLOGIST
- **Winner: Stonegate Dermatology and Medical Spa**
- Finalist: Cardinal Dermatology
- Finalist: Trayam Dermatology

FRIENDS, FAMILY, COMMUNITY

Jessica Massey
Agent
2429 S 11th Street
Niles, MI 49120
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BEST of the BEST Leader Publications 2025 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

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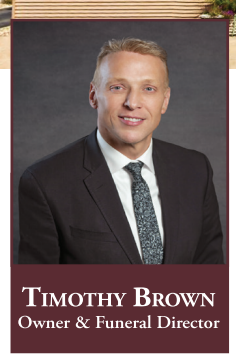

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EYE CARE PROVIDER

- **Winner: Smoke Vision Care**
- Finalist: Great Lakes Eye Care
- Finalist: Southwest Vision Center
- Finalist: Niles Vision Clinic

FAMILY DOCTOR'S OFFICE

- **Winner: Southwestern Medical Clinic**
- Finalist: Cassopolis Family Clinic Network
- Finalist: Corewell Health Southwest Medical Clinic

FITNESS CLASSES

- **Winner: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center**
- Finalist: SLR Pilates
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA

GERIATRIC CARE

- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: North Woods Village at Edison Lakes
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

HEARING AID
- **Winner: AudioNova Hearing Care**
- Finalist: West Michigan Hearing Specialists
- Finalist: Beltone Hearing Aid Center

HOSPITAL
- **Winner: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital**
- Finalist: Memorial Hospital
- Finalist: Bronson Healthcare

LOCAL GYM
- **Winner: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center**
- Finalist: Niles-Buchanan YMCA
- Finalist: Fitstop 24 Niles

MEDICAL FACILITY
- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Finalist: Beacon Medical Group Main Street

ONCOLOGY CARE
- **Winner: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital**
- Marie Yeager Cancer Center
- Finalist: Bronson Oncology & Hematology Specialists - Kalamazoo
- Finalist: Beacon Medical Group

ORTHODONTIST
- **Winner: Harrington Orthodontics**
- Finalist: Niles Dental Associates, Kyle McGill DDS
- Finalist: Brace Yourself Orthodontics - South Bend

ORTHOPEDICS
- **Winner: South Bend Orthopaedics**
- Finalist: Mishawaka Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
- Finalist: OSMC Goshen
- Finalist: I-Spine Ortho & Sports Care

PHARMACY
- **Winner: NILES WELLCARE PHARMACY**
- Finalist: Martin's Super Markets
- Finalist: Walgreens

PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- **Winner: Redbud Health Services**
- Finalist: McDonald Physical Therapy & Sports Rehabilitation Center
- Finalist: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living

PODIATRIST

- **Winner: Niles Foot Clinic PC**
- Finalist: Moore Patricia a DPM
- Finalist: Matthew Dinnon, DPM

SENIOR LIVING FACILITY

- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: Woodland Terrace at Longmeadow
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

SPORTS MEDICINE

- **Winner: South Bend Orthopaedics**
- Finalist: Sport Track Physical Therapy and Human Performance
- Finalist: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Orthopedic Rehabilitation

URGENT CARE

- **Winner: Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles Hospital**
- Finalist: WellNow Urgent Care
- Finalist: Physicians Urgent Care

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

- **Winner: Bucktown Nutrition**
- Finalist: Redbud Fitness & Lifestyle Center
- Finalist: Corewell Health Weight Loss Clinic - Niles

WOMEN'S CLINIC

- **Winner: Pur Aesthetics and Wellness**
- Finalist: Redbud Health Services
- Finalist: South Shore Women's Health Care

LIFESTYLE & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANT

- **Winner: Balanced Accounting & Tax Services**
- Finalist: Mike's Tax Service
- Finalist: Wooden Accounting

ARCHITECTURAL BUILDING DESIGN

- **Winner: CARMI Design Group**
- Finalist: Wightman - Kalamazoo
- Finalist: Furkis Architectural Consulting

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ATTORNEY
- **Winner: Duncan & Associates PLLC**
- Finalist: Landgraf Jr Robert L
- Finalist: Peter Smith Niles Mi

AUTO BODY SHOP
- **Winner: Clark's Service**
- Finalist: Jim D's Body Shop
- Finalist: Precision Auto & Body

AUTO SERVICES
- **Winner: Clark's Service**
- Finalist: Grant Street Auto, Niles
- Finalist: Millin Automotive Repair LLC

BANK
- **Winner: Huntington Bank**
- Finalist: 1st Source Bank
- Finalist: Fifth Third Bank & ATM

BARBER
- **Winner: Bakeman Barbers**
- Finalist: Joes Barber & Style Shoppe
- Finalist: Up Next Barber And Beauty Salon

CAR LOAN
- **Winner: Honor Credit Union**
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: Circle Federal Credit Union

CAR WASH
- **Winner: Drive & Shine**
- Finalist: 5th Street Car Wash Niles, Mi
- Finalist: Schilling's Auto Wash

CARPET CLEANING SERVICE
- **Winner: Elite Clean**
- Finalist: Michiana Sanitation Specialist
- Finalist: A2Z Carpet Cleaning

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CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
- **Winner: Affordable Lawn Care Solutions**
- Finalist: Astrong Construction LLC
- Finalist: 2C Construction

CREDIT UNION
- **Winner: Honor Credit Union**
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union

DANCE STUDIO
- **Winner: Miss Michele and Co.**
- Finalist: Green Dance Academy
- Finalist: Tutu School Granger

FUNERAL HOME
- **Winner: Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services**
- Finalist: Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services
- Starks & Menchinger Chapel
- Finalist: Hoven Funeral Home

HAIR SALON
- **Winner: Luminous Hair Spa**
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Autumn Leigh

HAIR STYLIST NAME/BUSINESS
- **Winner: Libby Grace Hair**
- Finalist: Color with Lex
- Finalist: Maddie.Hair. Official

HEATING & COOLING SERVICE
- **Winner: All Brands Heating and Cooling / Sister Lakes**
- Finalist: Michiana Heating & Air Conditioning
- Finalist: Ace Heating and Air Conditioning

INSURANCE AGENT
- **Winner: Redbud Insurance Services LLC**
- Finalist: Jessica Massey - State Farm Insurance Agent
- Finalist: Patsy Sears - State Farm Insurance Agent

INVESTMENT FIRM
- **Winner: Gregory A Surber, Edward Jones**
- Finalist: Golden Years Financial Advisors
- Finalist: John Seculoff, Edward Jones

IT OR COMPUTER SHOP
- **Winner: Custom Computer Company, CO.**
- Finalist: C&P Distributing
- Finalist: K's Computer Repair

LANDSCAPING/ LAWN CARE
- **Winner: Affordable Lawn Care Solutions**
- Finalist: Four Seasons Lawn Care and Snow Plowing
- Finalist: Grass Pro Lawn Service

MORTGAGE LENDER
- **Winner: Honor Credit Union**
- Finalist: United Federal Credit Union
- Finalist: Sturgis Bank

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Thank you for voting us Best accountant and Best Tax Services!
2025 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST BEST of the BEST Leader Publications MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

THANK YOU
FOR VOTING US BEST OF!
(WEDDING VENUE, ROMANTIC DINNER, INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE, & CATERING)
We're honored and grateful for your continued support.
-The Embers at Signal Point & SugarElla's Catering

NAIL SALON
- **Winner: Luminous Hair Spa**
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Nailskenz †McKenzie Hassle

OIL CHANGE
- **Winner: Drive & Shine**
- Finalist: Dave's Garage Niles, Mi
- Finalist: Zolman's Best One Tire & Auto Care

PET GROOMER
- **Winner: Blue Paw Pet Spa**
- Finalist: Oodles of Poodles Dog Grooming
- Finalist: Shampoochie Dog Salon

PHOTOGRAPHER
- **Winner: Danielle Sergio Photography**
- Finalist: Blue Print Photography
- Finalist: Off The Wahl Photography

PLUMBER
- **Winner: SC Drain Cleaning**
- Finalist: Niezgodski Plumbing
- Finalist: Advantage Plumbing, Inc.

REAL ESTATE AGENCY
- **Winner: Jason Stroud Real Estate**
- Finalist: Red Shoe Realty
- Finalist: The Collective Home Group

REALTOR NAME/BUSINESS

- **Winner: Jason Stroud Team**
- Finalist: Cloe Mittan/ Red Shoe Realty
- Finalist: Mary Cooper, Welcome Home Michiana

SENIOR SERVICES

- **Winner: Brentwood at Niles Senior Living**
- Finalist: Riveridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
- Finalist: North Woods Village at Edison Lakes

SEPTIC SERVICE

- **Winner: Krueger's Septic Services**
- Finalist: Pump That Septic
- Finalist: Do It All Septic Services

SPA OR MASSAGE

- **Winner: SoulSkin Aesthetics**
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Luminous Hair Spa

TANNING SALON UV

- **Winner: Tans Down Under**
- Finalist: Beauty Bar 201
- Finalist: Tiki Tan

TANNING SALON UV ALTERNATIVES

- **Winner: Beauty Bar 201**
- Finalist: Luminous
- Finalist: Tans Down Under

TATTOO PARLOR

- **Winner: Autumn Leigh**
- Finalist: Luminous Hair Spa
- Finalist: Ink About It

TAX SERVICES

- **Winner: Balanced Accounting & Tax Services**
- Finalist: Mike's Tax Service
- Finalist: Korhorn Financial Group, Inc.

VETERINARIAN

- **Winner: River Valley Equine Clinic & Small Animal Hospital**
- Finalist: Berrien Veterinary Services
- Finalist: Bergman Veterinary Medical Center

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Winner: Borden Waste-Away Service, Inc.**
- Finalist: LRS (Formerly Michiana Recycling & Disposal)
- Finalist: Clean Pups Poop Scooping

WEDDING VENUE

- **Winner: Fernwood Botanical Garden**
- Finalist: The Embers at Signal Point
- Finalist: Blooming Bus Farms

RETAIL

ANTIQUE SHOP

- **Winner: Pickers Paradise**
- Finalist: Four Flags Antiques
- Finalist: The Market Place

APPLIANCE STORE

- **Winner: Camden Appliance Niles**
- Finalist: Bill's Appliances
- Finalist: Lowe's Home Improvement

BOOKSTORE

- **Winner: Casperson Books**
- Finalist: Glendora Bookshop
- Finalist: Market 2555, LLC

BUTCHER OR MEAT DEPARTMENT

- **Winner: Lowery Meat & Seafood**
- Finalist: Clear Water Meats
- Finalist: Eby's Old Fashion Meat Market

CARPET & FLOORING STORE

- **Winner: Ham's Home Improvements**
- Finalist: Abbey Carpet & Floor
- Finalist: Lowe's Home Improvement

CONSIGNMENT SHOP

- **Winner: Picker's Paradise Antique Mall**
- Finalist: The Market Place
- Finalist: WHO kNEW? Consignment

FARMER'S MARKET OR FRUIT STAND

- **Winner: Buchanan Farmers Market**
- Finalist: Eckler's Produce & Greenhouse
- Finalist: Dussel's Farm Market & Greenhouses

FLOWER SHOP

- **Winner: Annas flower shop Buchanan**
- Finalist: East Main Gardens Florist & Greenhouses Inc
- Finalist: Buchanan Floral Company & Greenhouses

FURNITURE

- **Winner: Pickers Paradise**
- Finalist: Imperial Furniture
- Finalist: The Market Place

GARDEN CENTER

- **Winner: Varner's** Greenhouse & Nursery
- Finalist: Vite Greenhouses
- Finalist: Dussel's Farm Market & Greenhouses
- Finalist: Teifkes Greenhouse

GIFT SHOP

- **Winner: Picker's Paradise Antique Mall**
- Finalist: Market 2555, LLC
- Finalist: Fernwood Botanical Garden

GROCERY STORE
- **Winner: Martin's Super Markets**
- Finalist: ALDI
- Finalist: Harding's Friendly Market

HARDWARE STORE
- **Winner: Redbud Hardware**
- Finalist: Hale's Hardware
- Finalist: Hayden & Sons Hardware

HOME IMPROVEMENT STORE
- **Winner: Redbud Hardware**
- Finalist: Lowe's Home Improvement
- Finalist: Menards

HOUSEHOLD DECOR
- **Winner: Picker's Paradise Antique Mall**
- Finalist: Annas flower shop Buchanan
- Finalist: The Market Place

HUNTING & FISHING
- **Winner: Rusty Hooks Bait & Tackle**
- Finalist: Rural King
- Finalist: The Firing Pin

LIQUOR SELLER
- **Winner: Iron Shoe Distillery**
- Finalist: Redbud Liquor
- Finalist: Crockers Party Store

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LUMBER YARD
- **Winner: Lowe's Home Improvement**
- Finalist: Big C Lumber
- Finalist: United States Lumber Company

MARINA
- **Winner: Diamond Lake Marina**
- Finalist: Luna Marine & Storage
- Finalist: Park Shore Marina

MATTRESS STORE
- **Winner: Mattress Warehouse**
- Finalist: ZSMART RENTAL-PURCHASE
- Finalist: Denver Mattress

MOTORCYCLE OR ATV DEALER
- **Winner: North End Cycle**
- Finalist: McDaniel's Harley-Davidson
- Finalist: SJR Powersports

NEW CAR DEALERSHIP
- **Winner: Tyler KIA**
- Finalist: Campbell Ford
- Finalist: C. Wimberley Ford, Inc.
- Finalist: Tyler Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM

ORGANIC FOOD
- **Winner: Fresh Thyme Market**
- Finalist: Eby's Old Fashion Meat Market
- Finalist: Martin's Super Markets

ROOFER
- **Winner: Gean Roofing**
- Winner: Steel Master Roofing
- Finalist: Levis Construction

TIRE SHOP
- **Winner: Jackson Tire**
- Finalist: Zolman's Best One Tire & Auto Care
- Finalist: Division Tire & Battery Inc

USED CAR DEALERSHIP
- **Winner: Campbell Ford**
- Finalist: Tyler Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM
- Finalist: C. Wimberley Ford, Inc.

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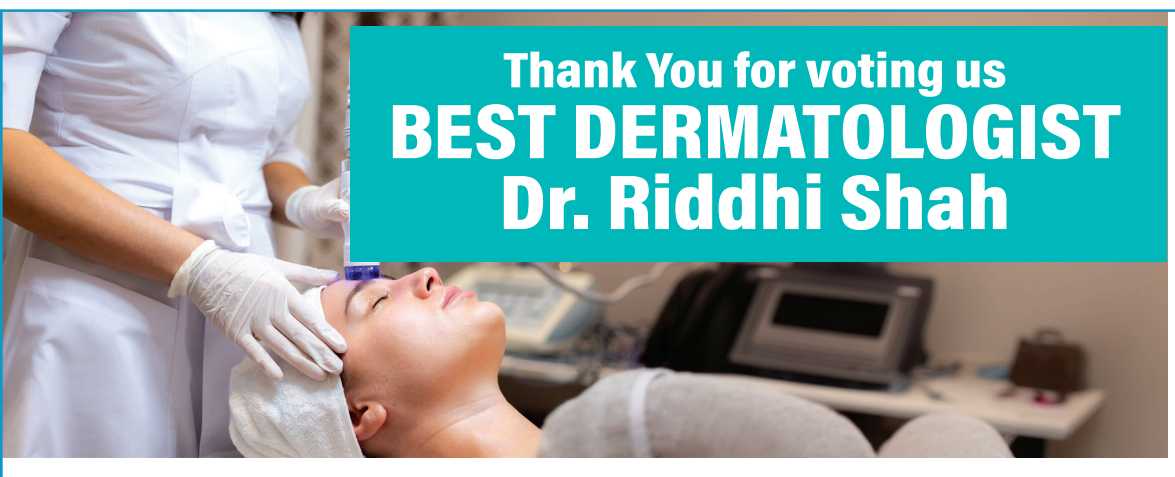
WINDOWS

- **Winner: Champion Replacement Windows of South Bend**
- Winner: Hannapel Home Center
- Finalist: Patriot Exteriors LLC
- Finalist: Renewal by Andersen of South Bend

WOMEN'S APPAREL SHOP

- **Winner: Market 2555, LLC**
- Finalist: Bucktown Boutique
- Finalist: S&J Customs



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Two-Time Winner: Michiana's Best of the Best – And Proudly Dowagiac's Best Place to Work

We're honored. **For the second year in a row**, the community has voted us **Michiana's Best of the Best**, and this year, we've also been recognized as the **Best Place to Work in Dowagiac**. These awards are more than just titles—they're a reflection of the people who walk through our doors every day, the passion behind everything we do, and the small-town heart that drives us forward.

To everyone who voted, supported, shopped with us, or simply shared a kind word—thank you. These recognitions belong to all of you, because this has never been a one-person, one-location, or one-moment success. This is a team victory, a community win, and a celebration of what can happen when you put people first.

What Makes a Workplace the Best?

It starts with culture. For us, that means showing up for one another. It means leading with kindness, keeping things fun, and creating a space where people feel heard, valued, and excited to grow. Whether someone's been with us since the beginning or just joined the team last week, we believe in investing in people—their potential, their creativity, and their goals.

Recognition as Dowagiac's Best Place to Work is especially meaningful because it confirms what we've always believed: when you take care of your team, everything else falls into place. Customers notice. The vibe is better. The energy is contagious. And most importantly, your team becomes your biggest strength.

Still Michiana's Best – Because of You

Winning Michiana's Best of the Best for the second consecutive year is surreal—and it doesn't happen without a whole lot of heart behind the scenes. We've grown, we've learned, and we've worked hard to keep raising the bar. But at the center of it all is our relationship with the people we serve.

From day one, we've aimed to be more than just a place of business. We want to be a trusted space where people feel welcome, where questions are answered, and where quality never takes a back seat. We know that in a crowded marketplace, people have options. And the fact that so many of you continue to choose us—and even took the time to vote for us—is something we'll never take for granted.

Looking Ahead, Staying Grounded

While we're proud of how far we've come, we're even more excited for what's ahead. These awards motivate us to keep listening, keep improving, and keep showing up for our community in meaningful ways. We're not perfect—but we're always working to be better.

In the meantime, we'll keep doing what we love: taking care of our customers, supporting our teammates, and staying true to our roots here in Dowagiac and across the Michiana region.

Thank you for believing in us, for growing with us, and for being the reason we can call ourselves the Best of the Best.

We're proud. We're grateful. And we're just getting started.

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